



## EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

**15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)**

**Thursday 19 September 2013**

The Committee will meet at 9.00 am in Committee Room 1.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 8 in private.
2. **Scottish Government's Action Plan on European Engagement and the UK Government's Balance of Competences review:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
  
Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, and Karen Watt, Director of External Affairs, Scottish Government.
3. **Foreign languages learning in primary schools inquiry:** The Committee will consider a response to its report from the Scottish Government.
4. **Scottish Government's Country Plan for China and International Framework inquiry:** The Committee will consider a response to its report from the Scottish Government.
5. **Brussels Bulletin:** The Committee will consider the latest issue of the Brussels Bulletin.
6. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2014-15:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15.
7. **Inquiry into the aspects of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union:** The Committee will consider whether to seek approval for the appointment of an adviser, and consider a draft remit and person-specification for the post of adviser in connection with its forthcoming inquiry.
8. **Anti-trafficking:** The Committee will consider follow-up to its evidence session with the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Item 2**

PRIVATE PAPER EU/S4/13/15/1

Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs EU/S4/13/15/2

**Scottish Govt Action Plan on European Engagement**

**Action Plan appendices**

**Item 3**

Response from the Scottish Government EU/S4/13/15/3

**Item 4**

Response from the Scottish Government EU/S4/13/15/4

**Item 5**

Brussels Bulletin EU/S4/13/15/5

**Item 6**

Note by the clerk EU/S4/13/15/6

**Item 7**

Note by the clerk EU/S4/13/15/7

**Item 8**

PRIVATE PAPER EU/S4/13/15/8

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 August 2013



Ahead of my appearance before the European and External Relations Committee on 19 September, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some background information on the Scottish Government's current work on European engagement.

The past few months have been incredibly important in making progress on our EU priorities and we have endeavoured to keep the EERC well informed of the work underway across our policy teams. In June of this year, we provided an update on June's JMC(E) meeting and my officials responded to the committee's enquiry into foreign language learning in primary schools on 30 July. In addition, you had the opportunity to consider updates from the Scottish Government on EU Funding, the Transposition of EU Directives and Horizon 2020 at the EERC meeting on 27 June 2013. My officials have agreed with the committee clerks that further updates on policy will be issued for your consideration in December 2013. However, we will of course keep you informed of any notable developments happening before then.

In addition to receiving a response from Mr Yousaf to the EERC enquiry report on the Scottish Government's Country Plan on China, you received the updated appendices to our Action Plan on EU Engagement this month. These are available to access on our website at: <http://scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/appendicesJuly2013> and highlight the excellent progress we have made under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in influencing policy proposals, sharing examples of good practice with our European partners and establishing networks of influential contacts in our priority areas. This work will continue under the Lithuanian Presidency, which will take the lead on a number of issues of particular importance to Scotland.

As well as promoting our interests in Brussels, the Scottish Government is keen to engage with European issues in the domestic context. We have been in touch previously about the 'UK Review of the Balance of EU Competences' launched by the Foreign Secretary in July 2012. Of course, the political landscape has changed significantly since then. David Cameron's speech of 23 January promising an in/out referendum on EU membership no later than the end of 2017 has underlined a fundamental difference in European policy between Scotland and the UK. This has given us cause to amend our approach on the



Balance of Competences Review, as it is important that we underline the opportunities and benefits that EU membership offers Scotland. In doing so, we will also consider where improvements to EU policy could be made. However, we are clear that where constructive criticism is offered, the most appropriate course of action would be for Scotland to argue for reform *from within* the EU.

The first semester reports in the Balance of Competences Review were published on 22 July 2013, covering a number of dossiers. The Scottish Government provided submissions on health, where we noted how the co-ordinating function at European level contributes a valuable support for our national efforts; and on international development, where we noted that in areas of shared competence, EU international development work can offer a valuable complement to national efforts.

I am encouraged that the general weight of the evidence submitted to the first semester reports states that EU competence is 'broadly appropriate' in each area. I am also pleased that a number of businesses, foreign governments and influential diplomats have made submissions to the review, which support the Scottish Government's position that membership of the EU is a good thing – both in economic and political terms.

My officials are now in the process of finalising their responses to the second semester calls for evidence, which cover dossiers on the free movement of goods and persons; asylum and immigration; trade and investment; energy and climate change; transport; research and development; tourism, culture and sport; and civil justice. This work will continue into next year, in order to provide quality responses to the calls for evidence in semesters three (autumn 2013 - summer 2014) and four (spring 2014 - autumn 2014), cumulating in a comprehensive statement of the Scottish Government's EU policy position in a number of areas.

I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress as we take forward work on our EU priorities and to discussing this further before the committee on 19 September.

Kind regards

Fiona

**FIONA HYSLOP**

# ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT



# ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of The Scottish Government is to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth. This provides the direction for our international engagement, focused on achieving the three objectives set out in our International Framework: increasing population growth, bringing a sharper economic growth focus to the promotion of Scotland abroad, and presenting Scotland as a distinctive, independent minded, responsible nation.

The EU provides Scotland with access to the world's largest trading market, the Single Market of almost half a billion consumers. It is our most important export market, with £9.5 billion<sup>1</sup> of our exports destined for the EU in 2007. Funds from the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund have long supported projects in Scotland; designed to ensure that all of our diverse regions and communities can benefit from European opportunities. For the period 2000-2006 Scotland received an allocation of €1.7 billion. While our share of EU funds is now decreasing they are still important to our economy, the €820 million allocated to Scotland for 2007-2013 is playing a key role in our economic recovery programme as The Scottish Government front loads spending to stimulate economic activity.

The Scottish Government has a key role to play in enhancing Scotland's profile in Europe, placing Scotland at the heart of European activity from where we can benefit fully from the opportunities available. We must strengthen Scotland's presence in the European Union so that our interests are heard on the issues that impact both our citizens and our economic growth. Not only must we ensure that Scotland fully grasp the opportunities that the EU presents but we should also ensure that Scotland plays a full part in shaping EU policies of the future in areas in which we can lead the field, such as marine renewable energy and creating a sustainable fisheries industry.

Ultimately these ambitions can only be fulfilled when Scotland has full standing as an independent Member State of the EU – a separate and distinctive voice at the negotiating table giving due weight to Scottish interests. However even within the constraints of the current constitutional arrangements there is significant work that we as the Government of Scotland, working with the wide spectrum of Scotland's stakeholders and representatives in Europe, can do to advance Scotland's interests in Europe.

Our efforts and activity in the European arena must be properly focused to maximise the impact we make. There are three categories of work in which we should engage. Firstly, we must continue to track key EU legislation and developments that will impact Scotland so that we can react positively to the benefits and defensively to the threats that these pose; Secondly, we must strategically consider the areas in which Scotland has a particular interest and unique experiences which mean that, by taking a lead role we can shape developments to the benefit of both Scotland and our European partners. Finally we must be pro-active in our engagement with Europe: raising Scotland's profile by participating in the development of EU policy making, through, for example, responding directly to Commission consultations, building links with key MEPs and participating in Council meetings.

Developing these three strands of work is the basis of our engagement with the Europe Union, a platform from which we can raise Scotland's profile and take full advantage of the opportunities Europe offers while demonstrating that Scotland is a responsible nation with a high degree of experience, expertise and creativity to contribute to the shaping of an EU that is ready to rise to the challenges of our times.

**Michael Russell MSP**

**Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution- Summer 2009**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/919/0078459.pdf>



# ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

## AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

The fundamental aim of The Scottish Government is to re-establish Scotland as an independent country. As set out in “Choosing Scotland’s Future – A National Conversation”<sup>2</sup>, full membership of the EU is a key feature of the independent Scotland that we seek.

Scotland is subject to the EU’s laws and regulations, and we are accountable for ensuring these are implemented and complied with in our areas of devolved responsibility. However, we are currently recognised only as one of many ‘regions’ of the EU, and must rely on the UK Government to represent our interests. While The Scottish Government is determined to strengthen its direct links with the EU where it can – and will seek to maximise opportunities arising under the current constitutional settlement – we are seriously limited in our ability to freely represent Scotland’s interests while having to work within the strict constraints that arise because EU affairs are considered part of foreign policy, and therefore reserved to the UK Government. At the Council of Ministers, for example, Scottish Ministers can only attend as part of the UK delegation, and only after seeking the permission of the UK Government.

The subordinate role that Scotland is forced to play in Europe is a clear example of why the current constitutional arrangements in the UK simply do not work. An independent Scotland would have the same status and normal rights of representation as all other Member States. We would have a voice – and a vote – at the negotiating table.

Of course, Scotland would continue to be bound by the laws of the EU, but on a level playing field with other Member States. As an independent Member State, we would be able to ensure that vital Scottish interests are properly represented through the full participation of Scotland in the Council of Ministers. We would still be responsible for implementing EU legislation in Scots law, but that legislation would have been developed through a process in which Scotland had a full and direct say.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/13103747/0>





# ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

## TRACKING AND INFLUENCING EU LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

The impact of EU law is clear. It is EU legislation that has led to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital across the Single Market, secured many of the social policies we enjoy, and has often led the way in protecting our environment. Of course, there are also elements of EU law and policy which are not viewed as positively – proposals that do not take account of the specific circumstances in each Member State, or apply the subsidiarity principle. Because these issues affect all our lives, it is imperative that Scotland seeks to influence the development of EU laws and policies.

Keeping track of the development of EU initiatives that will eventually apply to Scotland continues to represent the bulk of The Scottish Government's work in Brussels. We consider how developments affect Scotland's interests and whether we need to take action to defend these interests, or to promote positive developments which add value to work being carried out in Scotland.

The range of policy and legislative proposals which we are tracking at any given time will naturally vary depending on the European agenda. By tracking and identifying issues of importance to Scotland, The Scottish Government will be well placed to consider the benefits and threats that such developments imply for Scotland.

The Scottish Government will track EU legislative and policy proposals and engage early on with those that will have greatest impact on Scotland's interests. Scottish stakeholders' views on these proposals will be considered and we will work with the UK Government to try to persuade them to represent Scottish interests in the UK's negotiating lines. We will also engage directly with the EU institutions to ensure that Scotland's views are communicated directly where that adds value. Scottish Ministers seek to attend Councils, build links with MEPs and Commissioners and respond to Commission consultations that are of particular importance to Scotland such as, in recent times, EU budget review, urban mobility and cohesion policy.

Our work in influencing EU negotiations should reflect key interests across Scotland. Therefore, we value feedback from stakeholders and partners in the consideration of EU legislation and initiatives on the horizon which will impact on Scotland. The Scottish Government will regularly publish a summary of our key interests in EU negotiations together with recent and future engagement activity in those areas on which we will be focussing particularly. This EU Review and Forward Look is attached as an annex and will be updated on a six monthly basis in order to reflect progress and developments in negotiations.

### Handling Scotland's EU obligations

Involvement in the shaping of EU laws is only one aspect of The Scottish Government's role; working with The Scottish Parliament, we must also implement EU legislation in Scots law. We have an obligation to make sure that EU law is implemented correctly and will work to ensure that Scotland is seen as a competent, trusted partner which leads the field in implementing EU law effectively, while ensuring the right outcomes for Scotland and keeping the burdens on those affected in Scotland to a minimum.

Our EU Obligations guidance booklet (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe/Transpositions/Infractions/ProceduralReform>) provides, for the first time, a transparent, effective, Scottish-specific system for handling EU obligations. We are committed to working closely with the sectors and stakeholders affected by the law so that all aspects of implementation can be fully understood and considered.



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## PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN EUROPE

Scotland can learn a great deal from its European partners. However, Scotland also has a great deal to offer. The Scottish Government has ambitions for Scotland to play a much more significant role in Europe than merely influencing legislative proposals and policies driven by others. Despite the constraints arising from Scotland's current sub-ordinate status in the EU, we want Scotland to take a leading role in shaping Europe's future.

The benefits of this are clear. Where Scotland has particular interests or potential, taking the initiative to drive forward work at EU level will allow us to shape thinking and lead policy development. Scotland will benefit from EU policy designed to meet Scotland's needs and from the creation of new opportunities to fulfil our potential. Equally, our European partners will benefit from well designed policy that incorporates Scottish expertise. Scotland will demonstrate that it is an engaged, constructive and creative partner in the European Union.

Of course, we must be realistic - our resources are finite, and in order to be truly effective we must focus our efforts on trying to lead the way in a small number of areas. These are areas where Scotland's interests, expertise and potential converge with a recognition at EU level of the importance of the issue at stake. The Scottish Government will focus on four areas in which Scotland can play a significant role in Europe:

- Energy and Climate Change
- Marine Environment
- Research and Creativity
- Justice and Home Affairs



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

### Energy and Climate Change

We believe the low carbon economy is a major economic opportunity for Scotland. We will work to secure Scotland's place as a leader in international energy policy. Given Scotland's expertise in low carbon technologies and our vast renewable energy potential, including around a quarter of Europe's tidal and offshore wind capacity, Scotland has an immense amount to offer in this field – both in terms of capacity and cutting-edge thinking in the fight against climate change.

Scotland is acting as a model of best practice on tackling climate change and strongly supports the EU in influencing the international community to deliver ambitious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and Delivery Plan aim to deliver at least 42% cuts in emissions by 2020 and at least 80% cuts by 2050 and around 40% of our emissions are covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The Scottish Government is also committed to assessing the carbon impact of its spending from 2010-11, putting Scotland at the forefront of developments to integrate carbon assessment into the key budget process of government.

The Scottish Government is undertaking a number of initiatives which will help to maintain Scotland's position as a leader in low carbon technology.

The recently established Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC) places Scotland at the forefront of research development and deployment of low carbon energy technologies across Europe. Scottish researchers in universities, research institutes and commercial sectors are already recognised as world leaders in low carbon energy research.

Over the next three years, the SEGEC will create constructive partnerships in areas of key European interest – marine energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS), off shore wind and grids – to drive research, encourage adoption, act as a centre of expertise and influence policy. The SEGEC aims to act as a catalyst for the deployment of green energy and research, encouraging and supporting industry to put research into practise so that Scotland, and Europe, can fully benefit from these advances.

A key objective for The Scottish Government in this area is the creation of a North Sea Grid, to allow the export of renewable energy to continental Europe. We have effectively made the case for this within the EU, and in November 2008 it was included as a priority in the European Commission's energy security strategy. Building on links with the Commission, The Scottish Government was invited to become part of the European Grid Working Group in early 2009 and officials will take full advantage of participating in meetings to influence and shape discussions. We are also working in partnership with Ireland and Northern Ireland on a pioneering feasibility study into offshore renewables and grid potential. The Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study (ISLES) project is supported by EU Interreg IV funding.

We want to see Scotland playing a leading role in the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to allow us to continue to utilise fossil fuels while reducing the level of harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere. The Scottish Government will continue to take an active role in European considerations of carbon capture and storage by participating in meetings of the European Commission's Sustainable Fossil Fuels Working Group on CCS, the Berlin Forum.

The EU Energy Programme for Recovery, formally adopted by The European Parliament on 6 May 2009, presents Scotland with further opportunities to develop our position as a leader in clean and renewable energy. The programme sees €3.98 billion in EU funding allocated to EU



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Member States and Scottish projects eligible for funding include a carbon capture and storage project and an offshore wind farm. The Scottish Government will work closely with partners to develop these projects in order that they can fully benefit from this EU funding.

The Scottish Government is also committed to the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme having led a consortium which bid for funds under the 2009 call for proposals. The project will address barriers to the deployment of onshore and offshore wind generation, focussing specifically on how to reconcile future developments with environmental protection aims.

### **Marine Environment**

Scotland is a key maritime nation in Europe, with 10% of Europe's coastline, 20% of Europe's seas and is the largest producer of farmed salmon in the EU. Scotland is responsible for landing 66% of the total UK volume of fish and for 80% of UK aquaculture production.

The Scottish Government's goal is to manage Scotland's seas for prosperity and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, The Scottish Government takes a strong interest in EU marine policy, is currently transposing the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive, continues to strive to influence the Integrated Maritime Policy, and is well placed to shape such discussions. Our experience in working closely with industry has already led to innovative initiatives, such as the pioneering Conservation Credits Scheme to promote responsible fishing behaviour. This scheme was adopted by the EU in November 2008, and demonstrates to the EU our ability to work with partners to create a long-term sustainable maritime industry.

The creation of Marine Scotland in April 2009, integrating core marine functions involving scientific research, compliance monitoring, policy and the management of Scotland's seas, has strengthened the focus and coordination of our work, including at EU level. Important areas of this work include reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), strengthening the framework for aquaculture and marine spatial planning.

The Scottish Government does not believe that CFP best serves Scotland's interests, as it has secured sustainability for neither Scotland's fish stocks nor its fishing communities. Decision-making for Scotland's fisheries should be returned to Scotland and we will remain fully involved in the debate on the future of the CFP, pressing for an EU fisheries policy that will bring most benefits for Scotland, including support to fishing communities and safeguarding our historic fishing rights.

In April 2009 The European Commission published its Green Paper on CFP Reform. The Scottish Government has set up an independent inquiry body, the Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management (IFFM), to develop alternative models of fisheries management. The Scottish Government will also consult with stakeholders through the Scottish Fisheries Council and a number of stakeholder workshops. These activities will inform its response to the Green Paper and form the basis of our engagement with the EU institutions as we play a full and influential role in the process of agreeing the new CFP by 2013.

The European Commission also published a Communication in April 2009 designed to give fresh impetus to the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture, which aims to boost the sector's competitiveness, ensure sustainability and improve governance. This initiative complements the work of The Scottish Government, which in May 2009 launched the Renewed Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture, which aims to strengthen the Scottish aquaculture sector.



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Marine spatial planning plays an important role in the Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU. It is increasingly recognised that effective planning of maritime spaces is fundamental to the delivery of ecosystem management and part of ensuring that future development is rational and integrated and encourages investment while protecting fragile eco-systems.

The Scottish Government is engaged in a range of activity that delivers the European agenda. The Marine (Scotland) Bill was introduced to The Scottish Parliament in April 2009, and will deliver marine planning and marine protected areas, which we believe will be essential tools to deliver Good Environmental Status, as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In addition, Marine Scotland will act as a delivery vehicle that will provide integrated policy development and focused delivery.

The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with partners and industry through bodies such as the Scottish Fisheries Council, to put Scottish interests at the heart of EU negotiations. Scottish Ministers frequently attend Fisheries Councils, meet with Commissioners responsible for marine matters, respond to The European Commission consultations and are building links with MEPs, while Scottish officials sit on working groups and expert panels focused on issues of key interest to Scotland.

### **Research and Creativity**

We will work to consolidate Scotland's position as a world leader in research and creativity, and develop its international reputation as a centre of excellence in science, technology and innovation.

The current Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development (FP7) runs until 2013. The programme has a total budget of over €50 billion designed to respond to Europe's needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness, and to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy, by funding research grants across Europe and beyond.

Scotland should seek both to play a key role in the development of European expertise and attract significant funding from FP7. Furthermore, work has already begun within The European Commission to determine what FP8, which will run from 2014, will look like. It is likely that there will be a renewed focus on international research opportunities, and potential focus on climate change and energy research. The debate on the make-up of FP8 provides Scotland with a clear opportunity to demonstrate international leadership in the research fields in which it excels, such as in energy, information technology and biotechnology, and to create the best possible circumstances in which to enable Scottish researchers to participate in leading cross-border European projects and networks.

We will also engage with the development of the European Research Area (ERA), the legislative and policy framework designed to promote the competitiveness of the European research sector in the global marketplace. Initiatives on issues such as improving researcher careers and facilitating the development of large scale research infrastructures present possible cross-border added value to the development of Scotland's own research and development capacity. Continued engagement will be necessary to ensure that EU negotiations take account of Scottish interests, and to ensure that relevant stakeholders in Scotland are made aware of European developments in good time. Scottish Government officials will continue to monitor the progress of policy and legislative discussions at Council working groups. We will look for opportunities to raise the profile of the wider research and creative industries sectors by raising awareness within Scotland of EU consultations and other processes for feeding views into The European Commission and other institutions.





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We will continue to work with organisations such as Scotland Europa, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to encourage the participation of institutions and companies in projects that offer genuine benefits to Scottish research, such as the European Institute of Technology, and we will look for opportunities to promote the participation of Scottish institutions and companies in structures and networks including expert advisory committees, working groups and European agencies.

Our ambition is that Scotland is recognised as one of the world's most creative nations, one that attracts, develops and retains talent, where arts and the creative industries are supported and their economic contribution fully captured. We are working in partnership with Ireland and Northern Ireland in the Creative Industries Programme funded by Interreg IVA Programme. This aims to support strategic cross border interventions to contribute to a vibrant, integrated and sustainable sector. We will continue to work with other Member States and learn from their good practice. We will continue to monitor the work being done by the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Expert Group on maximising the potential of cultural and creative industries in particular that of SMEs.

The Year of Homecoming, with its theme of Great Minds and Innovators, coincides with the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation. This presents an opportunity for Scotland to host and participate in events on themes covering science and technology, the creative industries, and culture and the arts which place Scotland's past and present expertise in these fields in a wider international context. The Scottish Government is in discussion with a number of European partners with a view to hosting events in Scotland and in Brussels to showcase examples of excellence to an international audience while making a positive contribution to ongoing European policy debates on research, creativity and innovation.

### **Justice and Home Affairs**

The Scottish Government is committed to helping local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life for citizens. The EU has an important role to play in supporting the existence of such communities by promoting consistent high standards of justice, including modern civil and criminal laws and the right institutions for dealing with disputes and offences.

Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) policy initiatives and legislation at the European level have a real, direct and increasing impact on Scotland's citizens and its organisations. This impact is experienced in a variety of different ways. For example, for ordinary citizens it may result from dealing with sensitive cross-border child abductions or from pursuing legal redress against individuals or businesses in another EU Member State. For our police forces and courts, it may arise from the sharing of criminal records or dealing with the mutual recognition and enforcement of legal judgements, including, through the European Arrest Warrant, a much more efficient mechanism to facilitate extradition requests throughout the EU. The implications for Scotland of EU legislation in this important area, particularly how it impacts on our distinct and separate legal system, therefore need to be carefully considered and taken into account before decisions are taken. That is why securing recognition of Scottish interests in JHA matters at both UK and EU levels remains a high priority for The Scottish Government.

In particular, we have taken part in negotiations regarding a number of recent EU JHA initiatives. For example, the proposal concerning the European Civil Judicial Network where we were successful in ensuring that the revised Council Decision took account of Scotland's distinct separate legal jurisdiction and also e-justice, which aims to use technology to promote wider access to justice for EU citizens. We will continue to do so for initiatives that could have a significant impact in Scotland.



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We aim to continue to send a Scottish Minister or Law Officer to all JHA Council meetings as part of the UK delegation and to secure the involvement of the Scottish Ministers, officials and stakeholders as necessary in the formulation of the UK negotiating line in JHA issues.

We also aim to increase our focus on engagement with The European Parliament in general, and individual MEPs with a significant interest in JHA matters in particular. This is especially given the forthcoming extension of The European Parliament's co-decision-making powers in relation to both civil and criminal law under the Lisbon Treaty should it come into force. We will also be working to ensure that the UK takes account of our interests when making future decisions about whether to opt-in to existing EU criminal law measures as part of the Treaty's transitional arrangements.

Finally, the forthcoming Stockholm Programme will determine JHA policy for 2010-2014. We are therefore engaging with both the Commission and the Swedish Presidency and will take part in the forthcoming Council negotiations to finalise the programme. This is to ensure that it reflects our desire that:

- the EU should concentrate on areas where it can provide genuine added value such as addressing serious cross border problems;
- any identified need for new EU legislation is evidence-based and subject to robust impact assessment;
- the focus is on mutual recognition rather than the harmonisation of substantive laws through a one size fits all approach given that there is room for respect for the EU's separate legal traditions; and
- there should be a greater formal recognition of the contribution which so called "soft" measures can make such as exchanging best practice.



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## RAISING SCOTLAND'S PROFILE IN EUROPE

### UK Relations

The United Kingdom is currently the Member State through which Scotland participates in the EU. The UK Government retains responsibility for European affairs but, under the terms of the Concordat on Co-ordination of European Policy, should involve The Scottish Government in developing the UK position on EU issues which affect devolved interests. The limitation of these arrangements is that we are unable to represent Scotland's interests directly in the decision-making Council of Ministers without the consent of UK Ministers or through the UK Government. The only real solution to this problem is for Scotland to become an independent Member State of the EU in its own right. In the meantime, The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with the UK Government in all areas of EU policy interest to Scotland.

We are therefore committed to maintaining an active and constructive relationship with the UK Government on EU matters, and we expect the UK Government to do likewise. The Scottish Government will seek to play an active role in developing the UK negotiating position, sharing our ideas, resources and experience with Whitehall counterparts so that Scotland's interests are taken into account.

We will take an active part in the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) and seek to improve its procedures so that it fulfils its role as an effective forum for dispute resolution and for devolved administrations to raise issues with UK Ministers. We will also continue to raise our concerns about the "double hat" responsibilities that Whitehall departments fulfil in respect of representing English policy views while also being responsible for co-ordinating the UK negotiating line.

The Scottish Government will work closely with the governments of Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the role of the devolved administrations in European affairs is fully recognised. We will also look for opportunities where we can work with our Welsh and Northern Irish counterparts on specific EU issues on which we have similar interests.

### Relations with EU Institutions

#### *Council of Ministers*

The UK Government is charged with representing the whole of the UK in Council meetings. However, The Scottish Government can still be involved. Scottish Ministers will seek to attend Council meetings where issues of interest to Scotland will be discussed and will press to take the lead in representing the UK where we have the lion's share of UK interest (for example in fisheries negotiations). Officials in The Scottish Government's EU Office in Brussels will continue to build on our strong relationship with the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKRep) and we will also, from an early stage, engage with the countries preparing to take up the six-month EU Presidency, to establish their priorities, and to promote Scotland's interests. On an on-going basis we will identify other member states with similar policy interests and build relations with those countries in order to strengthen our position in EU discussions.

#### *European Commission*

As the key initiator of EU policies – many of which will have a direct impact on Scotland – a strong, honest and constructive relationship with the European Commission ensures that the views and interests of Scotland are known and taken into account at the earliest possible stage of policy development. Scottish Ministers will continue to meet with EU Commissioners and



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other Commission representatives both in Brussels and in Scotland where they can witness first hand the unique challenges that often face Scotland. We are committed to responding to The European Commission consultations both through the UK response and, where it adds value, with a separate Scottish response.

### *European Parliament*

The European Parliament has an important, and with the possible entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, an ever increasing part to play in EU policy-making, representing the voice of the people of Europe. We will ensure that Scottish MEPs are briefed on The Scottish Government's position, so that they can promote Scottish views across The European Parliament. We will also seek to build relationships with other MEPs in key positions. The Scottish Government envisages a deeper engagement with this Parliament due to the impact the Lisbon Treaty will have on the powers available to it in areas of importance to Scotland such as justice, renewable energy and fisheries.

### **Relations with The Scottish Parliament**

The Scottish Parliament is an important partner in achieving Scottish objectives in Europe. The European and External Relations Committee takes the lead in focusing the Parliament on the EU issues of greatest interest, while subject committees also consider EU policies falling within their remits. We will continue to work closely with the European and External Relations Committee on European affairs, and work to encourage subject committees to be active in areas of interest. Scottish Ministers will provide information and give evidence to committee meetings on The Scottish Government's European activities as appropriate.

### **KEY ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS**

The Scottish Government realises the challenges involved in developing a stronger voice for Scotland in Europe. However, Scotland has an engaged and proactive array of stakeholders with a keen interest in EU affairs - many of whom already have a significant presence and influence in Europe and all of whom have an important contribution to make. When we approach Europe in a co-ordinated manner, focusing on Scotland's main interests, the impact of strong, consistent and targeted messages goes a long way to strengthening Scotland's voice and promoting Scotland as a credible, influential player across Europe.

The Scottish Government firmly believes that Scotland has experience and ideas to share with the rest of Europe, and that Europe offers us opportunities to learn and develop. The range of partners we work with is broad, reflecting the wide range of Scotland's stakeholders. Local authorities, for example, have extensive experience in influencing and implementing EU legislation and an important role to play in representing local concerns. The third sector has a fundamental role in strengthening our nation's ability to ensure that the EU delivers legislation and policies that improve Scots' quality of life. And, of course, Scottish businesses and industry, key players in stimulating our nation's sustainable economic growth, are often on the front line of both lobbying the EU and implementing European legislation in Scotland.

A co-ordinated, inclusive approach will not replace stakeholders' individual activity in Europe or restrict it in any way. Rather it will allow us to identify shared interests and ambitions and work together to achieve the best results for Scotland. While The Scottish Government clearly has a key role to play in driving forward this approach, for "Team Scotland" to be most successful, it will not be limited to, or necessarily driven by Government activity, but a genuinely collaborative approach, open to all of Scotland's stakeholders.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

The Scottish Government will encourage Scotland's wide range of stakeholders to work more closely with us on specific issues, where we can be more effective by sharing expertise and resources. We will continue to provide opportunities to bring together interested parties to discuss European interests, for example through the European Elected Members Information, Liaison and Exchange group (EMILE) and the Brussels-based 'Scotland In Europe' quarterly meetings. We will use these and other opportunities as they arise to provide information on The Scottish Government's position on EU issues to Scotland's representatives in Europe, such as MSPs and Councillors in European networks.





# ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

## SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

### BILATERAL WORK WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS

The Scottish Government's engagement in Europe is not limited to action within the formal EU institutions. Building closer relations with individual European partners provide excellent opportunities to learn from our neighbours, and to highlight Scotland as the aspiring, tolerant, outwardly-focused country it is. We will seek opportunities to promote Scotland across Europe as an ideal location in which to live, learn, work and visit.

We are keen to share our knowledge, culture and experience with our European partners through policy co-operation, the exchange of best practice, diplomatic links and promotional work. For example, Scotland is fully involved in taking forward the Bologna Process of creating comparable and compatible systems of higher education across Europe. Prior to the Bologna Ministerial Conference in April 2009, a review was carried out which gave a traffic light rating against each of the agreed priorities of the process. Scotland, which has the main elements of the Bologna Process in place, was the only country out of 46 to have a full green scorecard for 2009.

We will also look to learn from our partners and particularly look to draw on the experiences of other countries with similar opportunities and challenges. We will seek to work with partners from across the length and breadth of Europe where there is scope to benefit from collaborative work. Furthering our links with European consulates in Scotland and representatives based elsewhere in the rest of the UK will mean that we have strong domestic relationships that help to underpin these relationships.

"Team Scotland", many of whom have long been involved in bilateral projects and exchanges, will have a key role to play in building relationships with European partners to exchange knowledge, best practice and experience, and The Scottish Government will continue to encourage and support that work by providing advice, contacts and messages on what Scotland has to offer.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Scottish Government is committed to transparency and openness in our European engagement. This Action Plan, launched by Michael Russell, former Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, in summer 2009, is a working document. Updates on our activities and interests in Europe will be published on a six-monthly basis in the EU Review and Forward Look, which will be annexed to this Action Plan.

Michael Russell, provided the European and External Relations Committee of The Scottish Parliament with a report in September 2009 on the progress made in delivering the Action Plan on European Engagement. Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Europe and External Affairs will continue to provide an annual report in the Autumn of each year.

The report will assess the impact of the Action Plan, and will explore and illustrate how it has contributed to The Scottish Government's purpose and strategic objectives. It will take time to fully assess the extent to which the activities identified in the Action Plan have contributed to The Scottish Government's strategic objectives. The annual report will primarily demonstrate the intermediate impact of the Action Plan, and reflect on any lessons that may further improve effectiveness. We will solicit the views of stakeholders in formulating this annual report.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

### MORE INFORMATION

You will find more information about the following organisations and their work by visiting the websites listed below:

**Scottish Government European Policy –**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe>

**Scottish Government EU Office Brussels –**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe/Scotland-in-Brussels>

**Scottish Government EU Energy Policy –** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Action/leading/Energy-In-Europe>

**Scottish Government European and International Law –**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal/17844>

**Marine Scotland –** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Directorates/Wealthier-and-Fairer/marine-scotland>

**European Commission –** <http://www.ec.europa.eu>

**European Commission Representation in Scotland –**

[http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/about\\_us/office\\_in\\_scotland/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/about_us/office_in_scotland/index_en.htm)

**European Commission Representation in UK –** <http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/index.htm>

**European Parliament –** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/default.htm>

**European Parliament Office in Scotland –** <http://www.europarl.org.uk/about-us/about-us/office-scotland>

**European Parliament UK Office –** <http://www.europarl.org.uk/>

**European Council of Ministers –**

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_fo/showPage.asp?id=1&mode=g&lang=en](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=1&mode=g&lang=en)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office –** <http://www.fco.gov.uk>

**UK Permanent Representation to the European Union (UKRep) –** <http://www.ukrep.be/>

**Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee –**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/europe/index.htm>

**Scottish Development International –** <http://www.scottishdevelopmentinternational.com>

**Scottish Enterprise –** <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/>

**Highlands and Islands Enterprise –** <http://www.hie.co.uk/>

**Scotland Europa –** <http://www.scotlandeuropa.com/>

**Convention of Scottish Local Authorities –** <http://www.cosla.gov.uk/>

**Highland and Islands Partnership Programme (HIPP) Ltd –** <http://www.hipp.org.uk/index.asp>

**European Structural Funds Programmes for Lowlands and Uplands Scotland (ESEP Ltd) –**

<http://www.esep.co.uk/>

**VisitScotland –** <http://www.VisitScotland.com>



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

Global Friends of Scotland - <http://friendsofscotland.gov.uk>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) - <http://www.sepa.org.uk/>

CBI Scotland - <http://www.cbi.org.uk>

Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) - <http://www.stuc.org.uk>

Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) - <http://www.scdi.org.uk/>

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) - <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo>

British Council in Scotland - <http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland>

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### ANNEX A

#### SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT EU REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK

July 2013

This annex to the *“Action Plan on European Engagement”* sets out recent and future EU engagement activity in the four policy areas in which the Scottish Government aims to play a distinctive role; Energy and Climate Change, Marine Environment, Research and Creativity, and Freedom, Security and Justice (formerly Justice and Home Affairs). It also includes a ‘Forward Look’ of the key aspects of the Lithuanian Presidency on which the Scottish Government will focus. This annex is updated and published on the Scottish Government website shortly after the beginning of each six month Presidency period<sup>1</sup>.

Appendix I highlights activity during January to June 2013 in the four distinct policy areas of the Action Plan and Appendix II sets out the focus of the Lithuanian Presidency and the key areas of importance for the Scottish Government.

It should be noted that the Action Plan does not cover every item of legislation or policy currently being considered by the EU that is of interest, but aims to highlight those which the Scottish Government has identified as being key to Scotland. Therefore in addition to the policy areas mentioned in the appendices there will be legislative proposals in other areas of policy where we will engage directly with the EU and work closely with stakeholders and UK Government colleagues as required.

One of these areas has been the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (the EU Budget for 2014-2020). Over the period covered in this report the Scottish Government has been actively tracking the negotiations and influencing the UK government to ensure the best possible result for Scotland. The €960 billion EU budget from 2014-20 will have a significant impact on Scotland, offering substantial financial opportunities across the economy to research and innovation, skills and training, business development, agriculture, fisheries, energy, climate change and the digital economy. The Scottish Government welcomes the particular focus on youth unemployment, which is fully in line with the Scottish Government's priority to tackle youth unemployment and complements the First Minister's £88 million initiative to target Scotland's European Structural Funds on young people and jobs which he announced on 13 June.

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<sup>1</sup> The Swedish Presidency (July-December 2009), published September 2009;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/AppendicesJuly2009/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>.  
The Spanish Presidency (January-June 2010), published February 2010;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/Appendices-Jan2010/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>.  
The Belgian Presidency (July-December 2010), published July 2010;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/Appendices-July2010/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>.  
The Hungarian Presidency (January-June 2011), published January 2011;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/APupdate2011>.  
The Polish Presidency (July - December 2011), published July 2011;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/appendicesJuly2011>.  
The Danish Presidency (January-June 2012), published in January 2012;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/AppendicesJanuary2012>.  
The Cyprus Presidency (July-December 2012), published in July 2012;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/AppendicesJuly2012>.  
The Irish Presidency (January- June 2013), published in January 2013  
<http://scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/AppendicesJan2013>



### Appendix I

#### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

January – June 2013

##### Climate Change

The Scottish Government continues to play a full part in efforts with our European partners to push for high ambition in the EU and UN climate negotiations.

The debate in the EU from January to June was preoccupied with **reform of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)** through the Commission's 'backloading' proposals. This would temporarily withdraw 900 million carbon credits allowances from the scheme to help raise the carbon price to give a stronger signal to future investors in low carbon technologies. The Scottish Government worked closely with the UK Government to influence MEPs to vote in favour of the proposal and to support the UK position in Council of the EU – supporting backloading whilst arguing for longer term structural reform of the ETS. Following an initial rejection of the proposals by the European Parliament in April, the Scottish Government redoubled its efforts to secure support for the proposals, which were eventually endorsed by the European Parliament plenary with some minor amendments. The Scottish Government now looks forward to the European Commission publishing proposals in the Autumn on longer term structural reform of the ETS.

Linked to longer term reform of the ETS, the European Commission initiated its long-anticipated discussion on future **2030 EU climate change and renewable energy targets** in April. It published a Green Paper on 'A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies' which aims to pick up from the previous Roadmaps to 2050 for a low carbon economy and energy system in establishing the level of ambition and approach of the EU beyond the current 2020 timeframe of existing EU energy and climate strategy. An initial discussion amongst heads of state in the **May European Council** confirmed that heads of state would wish to reach political agreement on the most appropriate framework and targets at the **March 2014 European Council**. The Commission will issue a Communication in Autumn 2013 setting out firm policy options for this political agreement. The Scottish Government continues to support the highest level of ambition for a 2030 climate change target and reform of the ETS. The First Minister continued to engage directly with UK Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, Ed Davey, to agree our approach to the negotiations and work with our high ambition partners in other Member States to press for a strong 2030 package which will give the EU a strong offer at the **2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) climate talks in Paris** – the deadline for a new legally-binding global deal on climate change.

The Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse continued to participate in meetings of the Environment Council of the EU, attending the June Council, which included discussion of the EU's strategy for approaching the UNFCCC climate negotiations during 2013. During the Council, the minister met with the Lithuanian Environment Minister to discuss collaboration opportunities on climate change. The ministers also welcomed the **secondment of a Scottish Government policy official to support the Lithuanian Presidency on climate change and environment dossiers** from July to December 2013.

### Energy

The Scottish Government continued its strong European engagement on energy with the **visit of EU Energy Commissioner, Gunther Oettinger, to Scotland** on 28 February – 1 March. The Commissioner's programme included a meeting with the First Minister, ahead of which the Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism, Fergus Ewing announced new Scottish Government funding for the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC). Commissioner Oettinger also participated in a round table meeting with renewable energy stakeholders and the Green Investment Bank, chaired by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Moore, and held a round table discussion and lunch with members of the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, hosted by Murdo Fraser MSP. Furthermore, he attended the Energy Institute Annual Dinner and held meetings with UK Secretary of State for Energy, Ed Davey and the Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC). During his visit, the Commissioner praised Scotland's significant contribution to EU energy security through the long term development of our oil and gas resources, and the current growth in development of our huge renewable energy resource.

Commissioner Oettinger's visit built upon the earlier successful mission by senior European Commission officials to EMEC in December 2012. Following both visits, in March, the Scottish Government chaired a **round table policy discussion on the future of ocean energy policy in the EU Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan**. This discussion was attended by European Commission representatives from DG Energy, DG Climate Action, DG Maritime Affairs, and DG Research, by university and business representatives, the Irish Presidency of the EU, and by the European Ocean Energy Association. It concluded with a commitment to further joint working, something that Scotland will be leading through its coordination of the new **Ocean Energy 'ERA-NET'** joint action on research, which is being taken forward by the SEGEC on behalf of the UK Government.

An important next step was also taken in May, when the European Commission and the Irish Presidency announced that ocean energy will now be eligible for financial support under the **SET Plan from 2014 onwards**. This is a significant positive outcome for Scottish, Irish, UK and French joint lobbying efforts, and was helped in particular by the Scottish Government's secondment of a policy official to the Irish Presidency of the EU. Further joint collaboration on ocean energy demonstration and deployment to meet the SET Plan objectives is now planned with the European Ocean Energy Association and also between Scotland and France, with whom the Scottish Government and Scottish Development International (SDI) are now in detailed discussions on specific opportunities.

In June, rounding off a very busy and successful six months of EU engagement on ocean energy, the Scottish Government, Scotland Europa and the European Ocean Energy Association jointly hosted a high level policy event with the European Commission during **EU Sustainable Energy Week** in Brussels – 'Risks and Rewards from Emerging Renewable Technologies - The Ocean Energy Case'. The event included addresses from the Irish Energy Minister, Fergus O'Dowd and Alyn Smith MEP and was attended by over 100 participants, demonstrating the increasing level of collaboration that the sector is now seeing across the EU.

Work continued to progress positively on the **North Seas Offshore Grid**, and the Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study (**ISLES**) project, which is now moving into the second phase. The Scottish Government worked closely with the Irish Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government to press the European Commission and the ENTSO-E network of Transmission System Operators for the ISLES project to be seen as a priority EU 'Project of Common Interest (PCI)' for the North Seas Grid. In June, the European Commission announced its recommendation that ISLES should be a PCI project, subject to

## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

final Member State agreement in July. PCI status will allow the ISLES project to secure the €5.1 billion of EU funding that will be available from 2014 under the new Connecting Europe Facility.

The **Energy Council of the EU** under the Irish Presidency was relatively light on business, with discussions focusing on how to complete the internal energy market and on biofuels. More important was the progress made in the European Council on issues such as the development of **unconventional gas, energy prices, and a future 2030 climate and energy package**. Heads of state have signalled that Member States should be allowed to exploit their indigenous energy resources, including unconventional gas and renewables, and have also instructed the European Commission to prepare a report on energy prices and EU industrial competitiveness by the end of this year. This will be considered in the March 2014 European Council alongside the political discussion on 2030 targets.

During the Irish Presidency of the EU, the Scottish Government also continued to make important progress on advancing our support for the EU and UN **Sustainable Energy for All** initiative. The Minister for External Affairs and International Development, Humza Yousaf, met with the Director of Human & Society Development, and Deputy Head of Cabinet for Commissioner Piebalgs (Development and Cooperation), in DG Development Cooperation to discuss the Scottish Government's commitment to providing policy support to the Government of Malawi and to the United Nations Development Programme on development of renewable energy. Scottish Government officials will progress this work with the Government of Malawi and the European Commission to agree a funding package for the preparation of a **Renewable Energy & Climate Change Strategy in Malawi**.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Scottish Government will continue to focus efforts on securing an ambitious new EU framework for climate and energy for 2030. We will:

- continue to participate at ministerial level in the October and December Environment Council of the EU meetings, to take forward our interest in the 2030 discussions, and to engage in the 2013 UNFCCC summit in Poland during November;
- provide direct policy support to the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU on climate change and the environment through the secondment of two Scottish Government officials, one particularly focussed on energy policy to work with their permanent representation team in Environment Council and European Parliament business in Brussels;
- work closely with the UK Government, business and civil society in Scotland to make the wider case for an ambitious UN global climate agreement in Paris in 2015, working with like-minded partners to reach a strong EU deal in the March 2014 European Council on the EU's offer to the UN;
- continue to progress our funding applications with the Government of Malawi and the European Commission under Sustainable Energy for All, so that work can begin on developing the Renewable Energy & Climate Change Strategy for Malawi during 2014;
- move work on the ISLES project into phase 2, with a view to securing funding with the Irish Government and Northern Ireland Executive for a Preliminary Front End

Engineering Design (pre-FEED) study from the EU Connecting Europe Facility during 2014;

- take a more strategic approach to the new funding opportunities for climate change under the EU's updated 'LIFE' programme for environment and climate change from 2014, so that Scotland can secure EU funding for new 'integrated projects' that address climate change;
- work with the European Ocean Energy Association, the European Commission and our Member State partners in the new EU Ocean Energy ERA-NET to agree new joint funding mechanisms for ocean energy demonstration and deployment under the new SET Plan and Horizon 2020;
- work with the European Ocean Energy Association to ensure a successful annual conference in Edinburgh during October 2013.

## MARINE ENVIRONMENT

### January – June 2013

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead continued to represent Scotland at all of the Agriculture and Fisheries Councils of the EU. On several occasions in and around the margins of Council, Mr Lochhead highlighted key priorities for the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)** with the UK Fisheries Minister, Richard Benyon, the Rapporteur for the European Parliament's PECH (Fisheries) Committee on this dossier, and with Scottish MEPs.

The Irish Presidency of the EU's political ambition was to have a deal on CFP by the end of June and this created an intense programme of work from the beginning of their term in January. The most significant Council of the EU meetings on the CFP reform were held in February and May. In February, ministers agreed a general approach on the final elements of the Basic Regulations enabling the Presidency to begin negotiations with the European Parliament. In May, Council agreed a further revised mandate which allowed the Presidency to conclude a deal with the European Parliament on the CFP Reform package. The agreement secured the key Scottish priorities of a ban on wasteful discarding of fish and regionalised decision making.

Mr Lochhead and Scottish Government officials have continued to play an active role in the on-going **mackerel** dispute with Iceland and the Faroes Island. Mr Lochhead wrote to Maria Damanaki, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, promoting the idea of appointing a mediator to help find a resolution. The Scottish Government also successfully pressed the UK to raise mackerel as an AOB item at the Council meeting in May which asked the EU Commission for an update.

Scottish Government officials have been supportive of the EU Commission's proposals to take forward plans to apply trade measures in relation to the Faroe Islands on **Atlanto-Scandian Herring (ASH)**. These trade measures will help to conserve herring stocks and protect the livelihoods of Scottish fishermen.

**Marine spatial planning** is an area where Scotland is leading the way with best practice. Marine Scotland officials held a technical workshop in Brussels on Marine Planning and licensing of marine renewables in Scottish waters. EU Commission officials from DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and DG Environment attended. The Commission was very

## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

enthusiastic about what they heard and have invited the Marine Scotland team to give similar presentations in a number of Member State expert groups and workshops.

Mr Lochhead attended the **European Seafood Expo** in Brussels, the world's largest seafood trade fair bringing together industry leaders from over 100 countries. The Cabinet Secretary held various meetings with key stakeholders and a reception at the Scottish Pavilion, hosted by Scottish Development International (SDI), where he announced £2.6m in the latest round of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) grants to support 78 projects across the sea fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sectors.

Scottish Government officials have been actively involved in a number of high level events on marine issues. The Director for Marine Scotland participated in the final **Atlantic Strategy stakeholder** event, in recognition of the fact that the Scottish Government had an important influence on the shape of the Atlantic Strategy Action Plan. The Director of Marine Scotland also represented the UK at an **EU Policy Group** meeting in Malta.

The Marine Scotland representative to the EU delivered a speech on behalf of Scotland at the launch of a **Transatlantic Research Initiative** in Galway, sharing the stage with the Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach), the EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki the EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and the US Deputy Secretary of State for the Oceans and a Canadian senator. The initiative is significant in terms of future EU investment in research. Marine Scotland is also engaging the EU institutions on research funding through **Horizon 2020**, the European Union's main research fund.

### Looking Ahead

- The Scottish Government will continue to attend meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the EU and external negotiations with third countries.
- The Scottish Government will work closely with the Presidency of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament as they work to finalise the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).
- The Scottish Government will continue efforts to help resolve the on-going mackerel dispute and will support the European Commission's efforts to find a resolution.
- The Scottish Government will work with the European Commission to implement the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in Scotland.
- The Scottish Government will follow progress on Deep Sea Species legislation through the European Parliament.
- The Scottish Government will continue to engage with the EU institutions on the legislative proposal for Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management systems.
- The Scottish Government will continue to work with EU institutions to ensure that marine and fisheries related research is viewed as a priority area for Horizon 2020 funding, with programmes developed which are relevant to Scottish priorities.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

- The Scottish Government EU Office will host a two day UK Aquaculture Forum Conference in November 2013 in Brussels to discuss future developments in this sector.
- The Scottish Government will continue to engage with Members of the European Parliament on fisheries, aquaculture and marine issues.
- The Scottish Government will negotiate the best deal for Scotland in the annual December round of negotiations for Total Allowable Catches (TAC).

## RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY

### January – June 2013

Following intense negotiations over nine trilogues, the Irish Presidency of the EU secured an agreement on one of its most significant priorities, **Horizon 2020** on 25 June 2013. This paves the way for the new programme to start on time in January 2014. This agreement should now be signed off by ministers in the July Competitiveness Council and by the European Parliament during its September Plenary session.

As the legislative process for Horizon 2020 approached its conclusion, the **EU Research and Innovation Steering Group's** remit was revised with the over-arching aim of providing strategic direction to, and facilitating effective coordination of, Scotland's preparations for Horizon 2020. A programme of awareness-raising and engagement opportunities has already been delivered across Scotland entitled "From FP7 to Horizon 2020" which set out the opportunities, priorities and rules for participation under Horizon 2020. Targeted to a specific audience, the sessions focused on sector opportunities and were based on Scottish geographical and sectoral strengths which matched with the Horizon 2020 Grand Challenges. The general sessions were free, open to all interested participants and with a strong focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) engagement. Attendance at the events has been very encouraging with a strong showing from both academia and business.

The Scottish Government's Deputy Director of European and UK Relations, met with Scottish MEPs Alyn Smith, Catherine Stihler and David Martin on 30 May to discuss among other issues the Horizon 2020 programme. A follow up briefing will be held during the Autumn.

Officials are working closely with the Director at the Technopolis Group, in the development of a new Entrepreneurship and Innovation framework which will embed the principles of the **EU's Smart Specialisation framework**. Recent activities in this area include a stakeholders engagement workshop which was held in May and a two-day open consultation event in June. This brought together a range of people from the innovation and entrepreneurial communities to share ideas and consider the future direction of policy. Discussions from the workshop will help inform the development of the framework document due to be published in the Autumn. In June, Scotland's application to join the Smart Specialisation Platform was accepted.

The Scottish Funding Council has invested £30 million in the development of **Scottish innovation centres**. The innovation centres aim to enhance Scotland's existing expertise in technologies and life sciences. In April the First Minister launched three new innovation centres; one of the new centres, focusing on stratified medicine and innovation, will be built at the new Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, which is one of Europe's largest hospital sites. The remaining two centres will develop state-of-the-art sensors and imaging

## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

systems and digital health technologies ensuring that Scotland continues to be a pioneer in life sciences, innovative technology, ideas and development.

With more Innovation Centres due to be launched in late 2013, they represent an exemplar on how multiple Scottish academia and businesses can successfully engage. Their introduction has been timely, especially with the opportunities arising from within the EU - specifically the H2020 and KIC programmes - which both necessitate a collaborative approach to obtain successful funding.

This is the first of a planned series of Scottish Funding Council investments to establish Innovation Centres for Scotland's key industries. A further tranche of innovation centres is currently under development. These centres will harness academic and entrepreneurial innovation to create jobs and accelerate economic growth in Scotland.

### Looking ahead

- The Scottish Government will continue to explore the opportunities for ministers to attend Council of the EU meetings where Scotland has a significant interest in the agenda.
- The Scottish Government will continue to engage with the Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee by providing it with regular updates on the work being undertaken to ensure that Scotland's particular research and innovation needs and concerns are represented at UK and EU level.
- In order to increase awareness and engagement, the Scottish Horizon 2020 Steering Group, comprising the Scottish Government, the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland Europa and Enterprise Europe Network will meet in Brussels in November. The Group is also currently working on a second phase of awareness raising sessions in the second part of the year.
- The Scottish Government and the Steering Group will work together to identify appropriate opportunities to exert Scottish influence on funding calls within Horizon 2020 that are supportive of the Scottish Government's strategic aims/Scotland's research strength.
- The Steering group will explore how best to support Scottish participation in Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The next round of KICs is due to commence in 2014 and calls for proposals are expected towards the end of this year.

## FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

### January - June 2013

Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill met with the UK Home Office Minister, James Brokenshire on 17 January to discuss the implications of the possible UK opt out from **pre Lisbon Treaty criminal justice measures**(3rd Pillar). The UK Government has now announced that they will in fact exercise this power to opt out and will seek to opt back in to 35 of these 3rd Pillar measures.

## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Roseanna Cunningham attended the **Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA)** of the EU on 8 March where agreement was reached between the Council and European Parliament on a general approach to the Regulation on Mutual Recognition of Civil Protection Measures. The Council was also updated on a number of other measures including the European Investigation Order and Access to a Lawyer Directives. The minister also had a very fruitful meeting with officials from the Anti-Drugs Policy Unit in the Commission.

During the same visit, the minister spoke at an event organised by the Law Society of Scotland, on “Scotland and the EU”. The minister spoke about **arbitration in Scotland** at this well attended event.

The **draft directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings** was adopted in the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee on 19 June, endorsing the deal struck by Parliament and Council negotiators on 28 May. The draft directive ensures that an accused person has the right of access to a lawyer before police questioning; protects the confidentiality of communications between an accused and his/her lawyer; ensures an accused person has the right to have relatives and a consulate contacted; and provides the right for persons subject to a European Arrest Warrant to have access to a lawyer in both the executing and issuing Member States. The draft directive will be voted on in Plenary in September. The UK Government has still to decide whether it will opt into this directive, having chosen to opt out at the start of negotiations because of concerns with how the proposals would interact with domestic legislation.

At the **JHA Council** in Luxembourg on 6 June the Regulation on Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters was adopted and will come into force on 11 January 2015. The Regulation ensures that protection measures imposed in a Member State are recognised throughout the EU. This Regulation is a key part of the legislative package aimed at strengthening the protection of victims in the EU. It is the civil counterpart to the European Protection Order which deals with the mutual recognition of orders imposed in criminal proceedings.

The European Parliament Committees’ on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Legal Affairs invited members of National Parliaments to an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on the **Stockholm Programme: State of play regarding police and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters**. The meeting took place on 20 June and was intended to provide a forum for exchange of views between National Parliaments and the European Parliament. Matters discussed included the proposal for a Regulation on Europol (The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training); the future of Eurojust and the upcoming proposal on a European Public Prosecutor’s Office. Papers from that meeting are available on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) parliamentary committee section of the [European Parliament’s website](#).

### Looking Ahead

- The Scottish Government will continue to engage with the UK Government following the announcement that it will exercise the power to ‘opt out’ of all pre-Lisbon Treaty 3rd Pillar measures and negotiate an opt back in to 35 of those measures. While it remains the Scottish Government’s position that there is no justification for exercising this opt out, we will work constructively with the UK Government to ensure key measures and protections will not be lost and to minimise the risks posed by this decision.

## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

- The Scottish Government will also continue to engage with the UK Government on 'opt in' decisions in relation to new EU civil and criminal justice proposals.
- In relation to criminal law the Scottish Government will continue to participate as fully as possible in negotiations on key dossiers and legislative proposals, and work with the UK Government to ensure appropriate account is taken of Scots criminal law. In particular, this includes the European Investigation Order, the Directive on Confiscation of Criminal Assets and the Europol Regulation.
- In relation to civil and family law the Scottish Government will also continue to participate as fully as possible in negotiations on key dossiers and legislative proposals, and work with the UK Government to ensure appropriate account is taken of Scots civil law. In particular, this includes the proposal to establish a Common European Sales Law, the European Account Preservation Order and the Insolvency Regulation.

## Appendix II

### EU REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK: FORWARD LOOK TO THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY

#### Introduction

This appendix provides a brief summary of the main areas of interest for Scotland during the six months of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, which will run from 1 July – 31 December 2013. Lithuania is the second country to hold the Presidency in this 18-month Presidency programme. The Irish Presidency began new 'Trio' cycle in January of this year. The Greek Presidency will assume the Presidency from January 2014 and will conclude the current cycle at the end of June 2014.

The appendix is not intended to cover every item of business that will be conducted by the Lithuanian Presidency, but rather to provide a snapshot of proposals in areas of particular relevance to Scotland. Engagement across all areas of importance to Scotland will continue to take place throughout the year.

#### Overarching aims of the Presidency

**A Credible Europe** - In order to further strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the Lithuanian Presidency will continue working towards the establishment of the Banking Union and, once the Commission proposal is brought forward, will seek to ensure smooth discussions on the Single Resolution Mechanism in order to reach agreement before the 2014 European Parliament elections. In economic governance, Lithuania will seek to ensure the smooth application of provisions contained in the Stability and Growth Pact. Lithuania will continue the work in combating tax fraud and tax evasion, with particular focus on expanding the automatic exchange of tax information. In the field of Justice and Home Affairs, the Presidency will focus on strengthening both the protection of fundamental rights and the common area for effective judicial cooperation.

**A Growing Europe** - The Lithuanian Presidency will seek to ensure the timely adoption of the package of EU financial programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) - approximately 70 pieces of draft legislation. The Presidency will also adopt the EU 2014 budget, the first in the new MFF. Lithuania also expects to complete the on-going negotiations for transitional measures for Common Agriculture Policy for 2014 and will prepare for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy Reform. The Presidency will focus attention on both the implementation of both Horizon 2020 and adopted measures on the functioning of the internal market. The Presidency will take all of steps required for the implementation of the youth employment package, encourage implementation of the Social Investment Package and will also prioritise protection of workers' rights.

**An Open Europe** - In European neighbourhood policy, the Presidency will finalise association agreements with Eastern Partnerships countries, deepening economic and trade relations. Lithuania will advance enlargement negotiations with Turkey and Montenegro and set 2014 Guidelines for EU Enlargement policy. Steps will be taken regarding free trade negotiations with the US and Japan, and trade and investment conditions improved with China and Russia. Furthermore, the Presidency will take steps to prepare for the implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

The Lithuanian Presidency's website, which includes the Council of the EU meeting dates, can be found at: <http://www.eu2013.lt/en/>.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

Issues of particular importance to Scotland during the Lithuanian Presidency include:

- Cohesion Policy
- CAP Reform and Transitional Measures for CAP for 2014
- Animal and Plant Health
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020
- Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management
- 2030 Targets for Climate and Energy
- Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive
- Tobacco Products Directive
- Public Procurement
- Fourth Railway Package and Roadworthiness Package
- Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E) – Infrastructure
- Common European Sales Law
- European Account Preservation Order
- Establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office
- Social Investment Package
- Youth Guarantee and European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- Erasmus+ Programme

## COUNCIL OF THE EU PRIORITIES

Please find below a snapshot of the objectives the Lithuanian Presidency hopes to achieve in each EU Council which are most relevant to Scotland as detailed in the [Programme of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#) publication.

### GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC) ([Page 12](#))

#### MFF, Cohesion Policy, European Semester and Macro-regional Strategies

- Finalisation of all measures, programme and funds included in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- Continued negotiations with the European Parliament on Cohesion Policy Regulations for 2014-2020.
- The Fourth European Semester and presentation of Annual Growth Survey.
- Proposal for the adoption of Council conclusions regarding added value of macro-regional strategies.

#### Institutional Issues and Maritime Policy

- Review of the organisation and activity of the European External Action service.
- Continued discussions on the proposal for a Directive establishing Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC) ([Page 16](#))

#### Trade

- Free trade agreements with US and Japan.
- Improving market access conditions in China.

#### Development

- Agreement on implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF).
- Final agreement on Development Cooperation Instrument for 2014-2020.

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (ECOFIN) ([Page 20](#))**

Budget, EMU, Banking Union and Financial Markets

- Adoption of EU budget for 2014.
- Strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union.
- Proposal to establish an EU convergence and competitiveness instrument.
- Progress on establishing the Banking Union.
- Final Agreement regarding proposals on Bank Recovery and Resolution, Deposit Guarantee Schemes.
- Progress on the discussion of a Single Resolution Mechanism.
- Strengthening the Regulation of financial Markets including the Directive and Regulation on the Markets in Financial Instruments, the Central Securities Depositories' Regulation, the Omnibus II Directive negotiations and the proposal for structural bank reform.

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS COUNCIL (JHA) ([Page 23](#))**

Civil Law

- Progress on the Common European Sales Law Regulation.
- Negotiations on the Regulation creating a European account preservation order
- Negotiations on the better regulation of insolvency proceedings.
- Negotiations on the Data Protection package.
- Progression in negotiations on the proposal regarding the use of Passenger Name Record data.

Criminal Law

- Negotiations on the fight against fraud by means of criminal law Directive.
- Negotiations on the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's Office.
- Continued negotiations on the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime Directive.
- Substantial progress on the European investigation order in criminal matters.
- Progress in discussions on a proposal regarding a Regulation on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol).

**EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (EPSCO) ([Page 28](#))**

Youth Employment and Social Investment

- Implementation of the Youth Guarantee.
- Discussions regarding the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.
- Continued discussions on the Social Investment Package.

Rights of Workers

- Negotiations and possible agreement regarding the Posting of Workers Directive.
- Possible agreement on the Portability of Supplementary Pension Rights Directive.

Equal Treatment and Non-discrimination

- Council conclusions on equal opportunities for men and women.
- Continued Council negotiations on the Directive on improving gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges.
- Continued discussions regarding the Directive on non-discrimination.

Health

- Agreement on the review of the Tobacco Products Directive.
- Council General Approach regarding the Regulation on clinical trials of medical products for human use.

**COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (COMPET) ([Page 31](#))**

Single Market

- Completion of the Single Market Act I.
- Advancement of the Single Market Act II, including the establishment of integrated rail, maritime, land and air transport, the Internal Energy Market and the Single Digital Market.
- Improved implementation of the services Directive.
- Agreement on the adoption of a Public Procurement Directives Package.

Intellectual Property, SMEs and Public Administration

- Negotiations on the Directive on collective rights management and licensing music online.
- Progress on reforming the European Trademark System.
- Implementation of the Smart Regulation initiatives.
- Adoption of Council conclusions regarding the improving the application of smart regulation tools for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- Possible Council agreement on electronic invoicing in public procurement.

Tourism and Consumer Rights

- Council discussions on a European Tourism Quality Label.
- Progress on the Common Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package.
- Negotiations on the Consumer Programme 2014-2020 Regulation.

Research

- Implementation of Horizon 2020 and implementation of the European Research Area.

**TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL (TTE) ([Page 35](#))**

Transport

- General Approach regarding the Directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure.
- Continued discussions on the Fourth Railway Package.
- Agreement on the Roadworthiness Package.
- Discussions on proposals regarding air transport passenger rights and the Single European Sky (SES) II+ Package.
- Negotiations on the Marine Equipment Directive.
- Agreement on the funding Regulation of the European Maritime Safety Agency.

Single Digital Market

- Implementation of the European Digital Agenda.
- Possible opening of negotiations with the European Parliament on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market.
- Agreement on Guidelines for the trans-European telecommunication network (Ten-T).

Energy

- Completion of the EU internal energy market in 2014.
- Progress on the Fuel Quality Directive and Renewable Energy Sources Directive.
- Agreement on a new Regulation on investment projects in energy infrastructure.
- Council discussions on the Commission's Green Paper "A 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies".

**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COUNCIL (AGRIFISH) ([Page 38](#))**

Agriculture and Fisheries

- Completion of the work related to the approval and entry into force of the Common Agricultural Package (CAP) Reform.
- Adoption of Transitional Measures for CAP for 2014.
- EU legal Regulation in the fields of animal and plant health, feedstuffs and food.
- Possible proposal for the adoption of Council conclusions on an EU Forestry Strategy.
- Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Reform.
- Agreement on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for 2014-2020.
- Inter-institutional solution regarding the multiannual plans for fish stocks management.
- Political agreement on fisheries opportunities in 2014 in the Baltic Sea, Black Sea and other seas.

**ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL (ENVI) ([Page 40](#))**

Environment

- Final agreement on the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE).
- Agreement on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.
- Agreement on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Climate Change

- Coordination of EU activities in international negotiations at the UN on a global legally binding post-2020 agreement on climate change.
- Continued Council discussions on an EU climate change and energy policy until 2030.
- Agreement on the Regulation to reduce emissions of fluorinated green-house gas (F-gas).
- Council discussions on the European Commission proposal on the monitoring of maritime transport emissions.
- Discussions on the Fuel Quality Directive and Renewable Energy Sources Directive (ILUC).

**EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT (EYCS) ([Page 43](#))**

Youth, Education and Training

- Council conclusions on the improved social inclusion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).
- Implementation of the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020).
- Formal adoption of the Erasmus+ Programme for 2014-2020.
- Council discussions regarding vocational education and training (VET).
- Council discussions on Open Educational Resources and digital learning.

Culture, Audio-visual and Sport

- Completing procedures on the adoption of the Creative Europe and the Europe for Citizens Programmes.
- Agreement to establish a union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020-2033.
- Agreement on the Council recommendation on Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA).
- Proposal for the adoption of Council conclusions regarding sport as an impetus for economic growth and employment.

**European and External Relations Committee**

**15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4) Thursday 19 September 2013**

**Scottish Government Response to the foreign language learning in primary schools inquiry**

**Background**

1. The European and External Relations Committee conducted an inquiry into foreign language learning in primary schools during 2012–2013, and published a report of its findings and recommendations in June 2013.

2. The Scottish Government responded to the Committee's report on 30 July 2013. The response sets out the Scottish Government's position on each of the Committee's recommendations (see **Annexe A**). A large number of organisations and individuals have engaged with this inquiry and the Committee may wish to send the response to them for information.

*Scottish Government updates*

3. The Scottish Government has indicated that it will update the Committee three times a year on its new languages policy and its use of the 1 + 2 languages model, which was scrutinised in the inquiry. This will allow the Committee to monitor the policy and the Committee's recommendations, and the Committee may wish to carry out further work following these reports once the policy has had sufficient time to become established. These updates will be published on the Committee's website so that those interested in the inquiry can follow this process.

*British Deaf Association correspondence*

4. The Committee has received correspondence from the Glasgow office of the British Deaf Association (BDA) regarding the inquiry and specifically on the Committee's recommendations on British Sign Language (BSL) (see **Annexe B**). The BDA welcomes the inquiry and raises various points relating to the Committee's recommendations on BSL. The Committee may wish to send this correspondence to the Scottish Government for comment.

**Recommendation**

5. The Committee is invited to agree to:

- Forward the Scottish Government's response to those who have engaged in this inquiry;
- Consider the Scottish Government's regular updates at future meetings; and
- Forward the BDA response to the Scottish Government for comment.

**Jenny Goldsmith  
Assistant Clerk  
September 2013**



**Annexe A – Scottish Government response**

Thank you for your Committee's report into Foreign language learning in primary schools. I attach my response to the report in the annex to this letter. I have asked my policy officials to update the Committee three times a year as progress is made towards achievement of this languages policy (the 1+2 languages model) to create the conditions where every child will be given the opportunity to learn 2 languages in addition to their mother tongue by 2020.

I was very pleased that your Committee carried out this inquiry which has helped to promote and raise the profile of our languages policy. I agree with your statement of 'the importance of language skills in an increasingly globalised world and that as a consequence there will be a greater need for language skills amongst Scotland's citizens'. I am encouraged to see that there is widespread support across society – we need to build on this and continue to spread the word about why language learning is so important to coming generations.

The Government recognises that this is a long term commitment. We have pledged £4m additional funds in the year 13-14 for language learning and teaching in Scotland's schools. Funding resource for implementation of the languages commitment has been built into budget planning for next year.

Scottish Ministers accepted in full or part the Language Working Group recommendations and a Strategic Implementation Group(SIG) has been set up to oversee delivery of this commitment. The SIG has now met and all papers and minutes of their meetings will be on the SG website. The Group is to meet again on 1<sup>st</sup> October and is hosting a National Language Conference aimed at the Local Authority decision makers on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The Conference will be an opportunity for decision makers to share best practice, learn from good examples and discuss evidence and how to put in place aspects of the 1+2 policy.

I would like to thank all members of the EERC for their interest in our policy. As I explained above, my policy officials will keep EERC informed as the policy progresses. Please do contact me if there is any other information you require.



**Alasdair Allan**  
**Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages**  
30 July 2013

## REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

### Theme 1

**Funding** – how to ensure Scottish and EU funds are used efficiently and effectively to implement the Scottish Government (SG) proposal.

<p><b>1. The Committee calls on the SG to provide more detail on how the extra £4m will be allocated by Local Authorities (LAs) following its discussions with COSLA. It also requests more detail on how information on the £4m is being provided to LAs in order to ensure wider knowledge of the funds and the 1+2 initiative. (para 16)</b></p>	<p>We have worked in partnership with COSLA to agree the formula for distribution of the additional £4m and a letter explaining this is to be sent to Directors of Education later this month.</p> <p>This is a long term, ambitious policy which aims to create an open disposition to language learning in Scottish schools and at a time when overall budgets are reducing. We have committed an additional £4m of funding in 2013/14 to help start developing new approaches, recognising that Local Authorities (LAs) are best placed to decide how best to spend this funding according to local needs and circumstances.</p> <p>We are building a stronger relationship with LAs. We have written to Directors on various issues over the last 18 months and will continue to do so. In order to develop this key relationship COSLA are members of the Strategic Implementation Group (SIG). SG also work directly with COSLA on specific issues such as distribution of the £4m. We invited a representative of ADES to co-chair the SIG because we value the LA contextual knowledge, decision making and buy in that ADES offer. We are also working hard to build up understanding at decision maker level as they work up their strategic plans. ES have links with the Scottish Association of modern language teachers (SALT) and SG and ES use the SALT network as a means of communicating with practitioners.</p>
<p><b>2. Once all 32 LAs have completed the forthcoming audit of resources and skills for language learning, it is expected that the SG and its implementation partners will be able to assess</b></p>	<p>SG will keep the Committee informed about the progress of the 1+2 initiative, the outcome of the audit by LAs and the subsequent assessment and implementation plans. We will do this by providing regular updates on progress following SIG meetings so that the Committee can monitor outcomes.</p> <p>A key recommendation in the Languages Working Group (LWG) was that LAs should undertake an audit of their resources including the number of modern language primary school (MLPS) trained teachers and in which languages so they could see the full implications for funding. As part of this audit LAs will have in mind the sustainability for future years and maximising the funding. The findings of the audits will help to give a complete picture of the resource which will</p>

<p><b>what funding, resources and skills are required at the national implementation stage. The Committee expects the SG and its implementation group to transmit the results of this assessment. In particular the Committee looks forward to an indication of whether the SG intends to adjust the funding for future years in response to the audit and further information on how LAs intend to maximise the funding to deliver the languages agenda. (para 27)</b></p> <p><b>Therefore the Committee asks that the SG monitors how the 1+2 initiative is implemented by LAs and also updates the Committee regularly on progress. The Committee strongly encourages the SG and COSLA to work with LAs to ensure a robust</b></p>	<p>help to inform as fully as possible the debate about funds for future financial years. We have recently reminded LAs, through COSLA, of the significance of this work, encouraging them to share relevant information with SG.</p> <p>The SG process of assessing funding needs will necessarily be revisited annually as part of the Spending Review, taking into account the LA audits and their assessment of the cost of local delivery. In addition SG aims to help LA funding decisions projections by developing a body of evidence of best practice through the work of Scottish National Centre for Languages (SCILT), Education Scotland (ES) and other stakeholders. Much evidence already exists and is available on both ES and SCILT websites, this is constantly being expanded and built upon. In due course it will include the findings of pilot projects and the value and advantages of different solutions.</p>
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implementation plan.(para 30)	
<p><b>3. The Committee notes the strength of existing networks and that considerable support is available from external organisations such as the business, cultural and educational sectors and communities. The Committee considers that there may be potential in stakeholders' suggestions relating to pooling resources and working with external partners such as cultural institutions more effectively. The Committee asks the SG to detail how it could harness and support this work and strengthen communications networks. The Committee asks the SG for regular updates on progress in this area so that Committee can monitor outcomes. (para 31)</b></p>	<p>SG will provide regular updates on progress following SIG meetings so that the Committee can monitor outcomes. These meetings are scheduled three times per year and are to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October and the 4th of February 2014. The SIG meeting on the 7th of May discussed pooling resources and working with external partners such as cultural institutions more effectively. The SIG minute which can be found <a href="#">here</a> reads 'Action 7: SG secretariat will develop a proposal around how to promote, encourage and support collaboration between LAs on languages through pooling resources or other networks to share best practice'. We are in discussion with key stakeholders to develop this proposal.</p> <p>We continue to meet with the Cultural Organisations and LAs organisation (COALA) to share information. In conjunction with a wide range of external partners including business, universities, cultural organisations inter alia, SCILT is developing its website to be the one stop shop for modern languages. It is proposed that at the National Language Conference the range of support on offer will be showcased and we will update the Committee after this event.</p>

<p><b>4. Making the most of resources</b>  <b>The committee asks the SG to keep it informed of its reform of GLOW and the use of IT to support the 1+2 initiative.</b>  <b>(para 35)</b></p>	<p>SG will update the Committee of any further reform of GLOW beyond that which we detail here. It is recognised that Glow has great potential to assist with the 1+2 language initiative, however we appreciate that uptake and usage of Glow has been varied for a number of reasons. The SG and ES are working to address this by updating and evolving the Glow service. In the immediate term, Microsoft Office 365 is being integrated to improve usability and provide modern applications. In parallel and to develop our approach to continually improving and evolving Glow (and following receipt of the ICT in Education Excellence Group's report on the future of Glow), work is being undertaken to establish practice in relation to the use and functionality of learning platforms across the UK and internationally, and to gather user requirements for the future service.</p> <p>ES recognises that Glow needs to offer access to relevant content and resources for educators and learners to enhance and improve their learning. A strategy and process is currently being developed to ensure that the approach to developing this content meets the needs of users across all areas of the curriculum, including languages.</p> <p>As at point 3 above the SCILT website is being developed to fully support the 1+2 initiative (by providing a one stop shop) and it uses GLOW to offer modern languages CPD.</p>
<p><b>5. The Committee acknowledges the Minister's recognition that Foreign Language Assistants (FLA) can deliver a wider cultural global citizenship agenda and asks the SG to indicate how it will actively promote Foreign Language Assistants to LAs as an excellent value and holistic approach to delivering languages in flexible ways in</b></p>	<p>SG recognises the importance of FLAs as one successful method to bring language learning and the culture of a country alive to pupils. SG fund British Council Scotland (BCS) to manage the FLA programme and we are working with them to encourage LAs to take up more FLAs. In June when the FLA deadline closed across the UK, SG continued with BCS to actively promote through the Engage for Education site: click <a href="#">here</a>. There are at present 73 FLAs requested by LAs for 2013 to 2014 and BCS continue to invite more LA interest. Numbers are expected to continue to increase in future years from 59 in 2011-12 and 70 in 2012-13.</p> <p>The LWG considered this aspect and their view can be seen here:</p> <p>Supporting teachers in the classroom  <i>'Children's experience of language learning and teachers' delivery can be enhanced through the use of appropriate adult speakers of the language. In the past, exposure to native speakers of other languages within schools has been seen as valuable if not essential. The employment of FLAs in LA schools has been, year on year, one of the most exposed areas for budget reductions at times of economic pressure. However, it is clear that exposure to native</i></p>

<p><b>individual schools or across clusters. (para 41)</b></p>	<p><i>speakers of languages is a desirable part of language learning in schools. The increased use of technology also allows exposure to native speakers of other languages through television or through developing a 'virtual world'. This is even more important at a time of increasing globalisation and of developing markets. Pupils must have a real sense of what the language sounds like when spoken by a native speaker and how to engage in conversation with a native speaker. Much good practice is already in place in many schools. Equality of access by pupils to native speakers is important. Pupils should not be prevented from this contact because of where they live and go to school in Scotland. The WG considers access to native speakers of other languages for both secondary and primary pupils to be of high importance'.</i></p> <p>To encourage this support for teachers in the classroom, there will be an item at the National Language Conference, aimed at practitioners and LA representatives, reinforcing the different ways the schools can introduce this exposure to the native tongue. BCS is working with SCILT and the cultural organisations to support the FLAs, to engage with the schools and LAs through Project initiative <a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland-education-fla-school-project-initiative-case-studies.htm">http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland-education-fla-school-project-initiative-case-studies.htm</a> and through training, induction and interim reviews. BCS started a 'World Scots' campaign in June 2012 building on an earlier campaign to raise awareness and within this campaign they have set a target to increase the proportion of young Scots participating not only in FLA and English Language Assistants programmes but also Erasmus, Comenius, school linking and twinning programmes. SCILT website also includes a section on ways to support teachers in the classroom on both FLAs and via the use of international students – click <a href="http://www.scilt.org.uk/A12ApproachtoLanguageLearning/Supportingteachersintheclassroom/tabid/2251/Default.aspx">http://www.scilt.org.uk/A12ApproachtoLanguageLearning/Supportingteachersintheclassroom/tabid/2251/Default.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>6. The Committee calls on the SG to provide analysis of the reasons for the decline which may be valuable to the Minister's ongoing efforts to address this issue. (para 42)</b></p>	<p>The decision to take an FLA rests with LAs, and practice varies across Scotland. Anecdotal evidence suggests that recent reductions are linked to Local Authority budget decisions. The ring-fenced Languages Fund was rolled into the mainstream local government settlement in April 2008 in line with the Concordat. There was concern that some LAs were devoting fewer resources to modern languages as a result of this.</p> <p>Whatever the reasons, we will continue to work with BCS to promote the value and take up of FLAs in Scotland's schools. BCS is considering a pilot project where schools</p>



	<p>which did not have a FLA could have a FLA for a one off session to help convince the budget holders at LA level of their value. In this way SG will continue to promote and sustain interest in native speaker options with LA decision makers.</p>
<p><b>7. The Committee would welcome the SG's views on the value of the hub/cluster model, how the SG intends to gain the support of head teachers for the language learning initiative and how the best practice could best be shared. (para 45)</b></p>	<p>The Committee narrative refers to the following points which are dealt with one by one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hub network to share best practice</li> <li>• A hub network used to maximise resources</li> </ul> <p>The value of the hub/cluster model is widely recognised although ultimately, the decision rests with Las to choose the strategy which best suits their particular local circumstances. The hub model is one used by Literacy across Scotland. We believe that there are already at least two models for strategic delivery of 1+2 in Scotland: Edinburgh and the Lothians and Angus, Dundee city and Perth and Kinross Councils who are developing a Pan Tayside model. These networks may have the benefit of both sharing best practice, most effective use of resource and CPD provision. All of which will help to give head teachers confidence and gain their support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual event to share and promote best practice</li> </ul> <p>A National Language Conference is to be hosted by the SIG on the 14th November 2013 which will encourage greater momentum going forward with 1+2 and will provide guidance and information highlighting best practice in Local Authority cluster and departmental approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional support.</li> </ul> <p>ES is working to ensure the development of the language curriculum and a consistency of quality of experience for the learner. The SG sponsors SCILT to provide a wide range of support to language teachers to gain the support of head teachers. As we in SG continue to support the delivery of this policy in whatever ways we can, we will of course continue to keep under review what sort of national / central support is available / needed and what more could be done by SG/ ES/ SCILT or indeed other bodies and configurations.</p>

<p><b>8. In light of the barriers presented in evidence to utilising European Union funds and the SG's commitment to try and simplify the process, the Committee asks the SG to provide an update on how it will seek to resolve these difficulties in the context of the new EU funding programmes for 2014-20. (para 53)</b></p> <p><b>The Committee recommends that the SG gives national direction to ensure teachers and community groups can take advantage of European Union funding opportunities. The Committee also believes that more work is required on how information on the availability of opportunities through Comenius and Erasmus is disseminated to teachers, and asks the SG whether the information</b></p>	<p>The SG is committed to try to simplify the process in order to ensure funding from the Lifelong Learning Programme is distributed to greatest impact across Scotland.</p> <p>Below is an extract of figures received from BCS, the UK National Agency, which shows that on certain aspects Scotland does well and that the figures are improving with for example in 2013 a record 2,590 applications received across all Comenius strands, which is an overall increase of 24% from 2012. BCS also advise that the EU programme budgets are for the whole UK, and as such there are no targets set by the EU for each country within the UK. However, each application is considered on its own merits and the British Council (BC) works to ensure fair take up across the UK. There is therefore no formula for allocating the programme funding between UK regions or countries, but the BC monitors take-up and works to ensure an equitable take-up of the funding opportunities. (As a general rule the share of applications to achieve for Scotland is approximately 8.4% of the UK total as this is the Scottish proportion of the UK population).</p> <p>Regarding Comenius, Scotland has more than 20% of the UK's In Service Training applications; host school applications have increased from 14 to 30 (now 11% of the UK total) in Scotland; the value of Comenius grants to Scotland in 2013 is expected to reach €2,082,916. Regarding e-Twinning, in 2013 to date figures show 936 Scottish schools have registered (this is 9.2% of all UK school registrations); 1,494 Scottish teachers have registered (which equates to 9.6% of all UK teacher registrations) and a total of 737 Scottish schools are involved in an e-Twinning project (12% of all projects involving UK schools). Under the Erasmus programme, in 2011/12 a record 13,663 study and work placements were carried out by UK higher education students, which represents the largest number of UK outgoing student mobilities in the programme's 25 year history. Of these, 1,810 students were from Scottish HEI and projected figures for the current academic year 2012/13 indicate an increase of overall student mobilities to 1,861. Since 2007/08 there has been an increase of study mobilities from 1,121 to a projected number of 1,448 for the current academic year 2012/13. During this timeframe there has been an increase of work placements from 233 to 413 (projected). The value of Erasmus grants to Scotland in 2013 is expected to reach €5,184,000.</p> <p>We are working with BCS and others including SCILT to improve promotion and support to customers. SCILT</p>
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**could be covered more effectively in teacher training or by sharing best practice by LAs. (para 54)**

promote the opportunities via their website and ebulletin. BC work to ensure that opportunities are promoted across Scotland (SALT conference, Scottish Learning Festival, ES roadshows and promotion via BC schoolsonline website/newsletters). In partnership with ES in 2013 BCS are to set up a pilot to explore how involvement in Comenius and eTwinning can support schools' strategic objectives. This year they have also run media campaigns and have 15 eTwinning ambassadors to promote the programme. There is also a new BC website 'Study, Work, Create', - a portal pointing to the international opportunities available to UK students, including the EU-funded programmes: [here](#) which received in the first three months 16,000 unique visitors. In 2013 in response to customer feedback BC have tried to streamline and develop the application guidance on Comenius to make it more user friendly – see website: [here](#). They have also hosted workshops to support applicants for Comenius and start-up webinars to support schools wishing to participate in e-Twinning. The BC works with the 25 HEI in Scotland, disbursing funds and providing support, training and guidance to their Erasmus Officers.

The new Erasmus for All programme from 2014 see here: <https://www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk/erasmus-for-all> will bring together all EU funded Education Programmes. Led by DBIS, tender work is due to start this July to identify which national agencies will take this forward and a strategy for promotion and improved uptake will be considered and until this work is complete no further update can be provided. However, on balance, Scotland already benefits on some strands in the current programmes above its UK population share, and there will be increased opportunities for Scotland in the new larger programme. Extracts of Data showing improved figures for 2013 provided by BCS below. See attached annex in tabular format for 2011 to 2013 for whole of UK disaggregated at country level.

<b>Comenius school partnerships (multilateral and bilateral) applications (provisional)</b>	
Applications received 60 - 7% of UK	Applications awarded 52 – 7% of UK €783,657
<b>Comenius Regio partnerships (provisional)</b>	
Applications received 3 – 6% of UK	Applications awarded 3 – 7% of UK €111,951
<b>Comenius In Service Training applications (Round 1-2)</b>	
Results from the second application round are still awaited. One further application deadline 17 September	
Application received 213 – 21% of UK	Application awarded 190 – 21% of UK - €503,780
<b>Comenius Assistants (fig. shown for approved</b>	

	assistantships and grant values in 2013 are provisional only. A dropout rate of 15-20% is expected as individuals find employment during the 13-14 year.		
	Applications received by Host Schools 30 11% of UK Assistants 110 29% of UK	Applications Awarded Host Schools 27 11% of UK Assistants 97 (31% of UK) - € 683,528	
	<b>E-twinning</b>		
	936 Scottish schools registered – 9.2% of all UK school registrations	1,494 Scottish teachers registered – 9.6% of all UK teacher registrations	737 Scottish schools involved in an eTwinning project – 12% of all projects involving UK schools
	<b>Erasmus 2012/13 projected</b>		
	Study mobility 1448 (15% of UK total)	Work placement mobility 413 (8% of UK total)	Student mobility 1,861 12% of UK total) Grants €4,806,274
<b>Theme 2</b> <b>Skills and resources</b> – whether existing and future teaching resources would be sufficient for the new 1 + 2 initiative, and how to approach training teachers.			
<b>9. The Committee heard a number of constructive suggestions as to how training and continuing professional development could be reinforced. The Committee asks the SG to take note of these in the context of its plans for national implementation of the 1 + 2 initiative. (para 66)</b>	SG acknowledges the constructive suggestions regarding how training and CPD could be reinforced such as language upskilling and maintaining a record of teachers who had language training as well as ensuring a national standard and use of a hub approach. SCILT is the key body for modern language specific CPD and they have already expanded their menu for primary teachers and will continue to do so. The findings from the pilots will also help shape future modern language training. SCILT website provides a one stop shop where teachers can find information on CPD, promotional material, classroom resources, key messages from research, from SQA attainment data and reports and key documents for planning such as the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) modern languages principles and practice paper and the key aspects of achievement document published by ES to help identify key areas for development. An audit tool is also available to help plan for the 1+2 approach to Modern Languages aimed at supporting LAs, the tool could be easily adapted to help planning at school level too. As well as online materials, SCILT provides training courses, seminars and outreach events.		
<b>10. The Committee</b>	The General Teaching Council of Scotland has consulted on		

<p><b>recognises the wide range of views on whether teachers should be obliged to have a language qualification and looks forward to hearing the results of the General Teaching Council of Scotland consultation. The Committee asks the SG to keep it informed of the results of the consultation and any ensuing new framework of qualifications when this information is available. (para 71)</b></p>	<p>this and has adopted an interim position not to require a mandatory requirement for entry. However, we understand they are encouraging universities to expect at least a SCQF level 5 in language (and or a science). Whatever qualification level is finally decided on, we believe it is important that candidates have some kind of input on language learning and language during their initial teacher education, alongside an expectation of continued professional development during a career in teaching. The report Teaching Scotland's Future (Donaldson Review) acknowledged that teachers increasingly require specialist knowledge in a number of areas, including modern languages, in order to teach in the primary school. However, if mandatory requirements are pursued as a policy, we believe it would be for longer term delivery. Delivery of the 1 + 2 policy will require teacher education providers to review current provision while schools and LAs will need to review and build on the strengths of their current CPD programmes.</p>
<p><b>11. The Committee asks the SG to report back on the best practise in language teaching from its pilot schools for the period 2012-13. In addition, the Committee asks the SG to give consideration and report back on how a more cohesive approach to including community languages could</b></p>	<p>SG has agreed that those pilot projects which began late could extend into 2013-14 in order to run for a full year SCILT and ES will present the available findings from the pilot schools to the National Language Conference and we will share the findings with the Committee at that juncture.</p> <p>The LWG considered the rationale for promoting specific languages but decided not to set a hierarchy of languages. It is felt that the choice of languages which are offered in schools is a matter for schools and LAs to decide, taking account of the local context. SG accepted their recommendation that LAs and schools develop a 1+2 strategy for language learning within which schools can determine which additional languages to offer. As part of this strategy, we believe consideration should be given to teaching modern European Languages, languages of the strong economies of the future, Gaelic and to take account of local community languages of pupils in schools. Languages such as Punjabi, Arabic, Polish and Urdu are part of the diverse range of languages in Scotland.</p>

<p>feed into any new or existing models of teaching. (para 77)</p>	<p>Schools wishing to introduce teaching in an additional language which they haven't taught before (whether a community language, a global language or indeed any other) can turn to both ES and SCILT for signposting advice on how to develop training, resourcing and teaching approaches. For those wishing to introduce Gaelic, advice on resources would be available from Stòrlann.</p>
<p><b>Theme 3</b>  <b>The importance of learning languages</b> – whether the 1 + 2 initiative was effective; the role of languages in cultural and economic development, and whether specific languages should be targeted.</p>	
<p><b>12. The Committee asks the SG's implementation group to consider and report to the Committee on how the findings of the EU 2012 survey and the lessons learned from the pilot schools can be used to assist with implementing the 1 + 2 initiative. Additionally the Committee asks the group to consider how the language skills that exist in the wider community in Scotland can be engaged to contribute to the 1 + 2 initiative. (para 83)</b></p>	<p>The 1+2 policy and associated LWG recommendations are extremely timely and necessary in light of the general picture of language learning across the EU, summarised in the EU 2012 survey as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Language competences still need to be significantly improved, and educational systems must step up their efforts. The exchange of good practice within the Open Method of Coordination will constitute one of the main tools.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Language policies should address the creation of language-friendly living and learning environments inside as well as outside schools through exposure to language through traditional and new media, including the effects of using dubbing or subtitles in television and cinemas and should support that young people in particular, feel capable of language learning and see it as useful.</i></li> <li>3. <i>The wide range of ability among Member States in language competences indicates the rich potential for peer learning in language policy and learning. The Survey points out those educational systems can make a positive difference with an early onset of foreign language learning.</i></li> <li>4. <i>While all languages are not equally relevant when entering the labour market, linguistic diversity remains vitally important for cultural and personal development. Therefore, the need to improve language skills for employability in a globalised world must be combined with the promotion of linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue. These can be seen at <a href="#">here</a>.</i></li> </ol> <p>We are aware of the best practice elsewhere in Europe and we recognise the importance of keeping abreast of lessons from abroad. SCILT colleagues have a seat on the Open Method of Co-ordination which is an EU Languages in Education and Training Working Group and harness this</p>



	<p>knowledge in support of the delivery of the 1+2 in Scotland.</p> <p>On the second point, the SG accepted the LWG recommendation that schools and LAs consider the engagement by schools of other skilled and trained native speakers of additional languages to work under the direct and explicit supervision of the classroom teacher in schools. Scottish Ministers recognise the value that learners can derive from hearing native or fluent language speakers. It is for LAs and schools to decide how to make best use of the contribution that such speakers can bring to their language provision, and again they can approach SCILT and ES for advice. The SG also accepted LWG recommendation that there be further engagement with the FE and HE sectors to look to develop the experience of language learning for students. It is important to maintain and enhance opportunities within FE and HE for people to learn languages in a range of ways and maximise the potential for FE and HE students to help make 1+2 delivery a success within schools.</p> <p>On the latter, recent pilot work with Edinburgh University students shows the potential of partnership working between schools and universities, with appropriate training, to provide further opportunities for young children to engage in language learning. In the longer term, SG will engage with Scottish Funding Council and universities to consider what implications may arise from implementation of the 1+2 policy.</p>
<p><b>13. The Committee asks the SG how it will promote the benefits of learning languages to both schools and the wider community to encourage the necessary cultural shift to make the 1 + 2 initiative work. In particular, the Committee calls on the SG to explain how it will promote the</b></p>	<p>The SIG agreed that there was a need for an engagement strategy to actively promote positive messages around the 1+2 policy and an action from the last meeting was agreed: Action 13 : Communications strategy - It was agreed that there was a need for an engagement strategy to actively promote positive messages around the 1+2 policy. SG secretariat to develop and report back, drawing in SIG members and others as required.</p> <p>This engagement strategy will be discussed at the next SIG meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October and all the members will have a part to play in promoting the policy. An engagement strategy must ensure that support of all stakeholders, including cultural organisations, business and employers is co-ordinated and must take account of short, medium and long term objectives required for full implementation by 2020. Part of any promotion will include the promotion of the benefits of language learning for brain development and the limitations of only speaking English.</p>

<p><b>benefits of language learning for brain development and underline the limitations of only speaking English. (para 84)</b></p>	<p>SG has set out a communications plan and will engage with its stakeholders to best promote this ambitious policy using media, Ministerial visits and social media in order to continuously reinforce this message. The SG has set itself seven years to achieve this policy. SG will ensure a group retains oversight of this policy over this period in order to maintain the consistency of message. This issue will require sustained attention as we seek to deliver this policy, responding to any issues which arise and engaging around particular aspects with certain stakeholder groups. To ensure wider knowledge of the funds, SG itself and through its agency Education Scotland (ES), its sponsorship of Scotland's National Centre for Languages and its website and social media Engage for Education has widely promoted the 1+2 initiative.</p>
<p><b>14. The Committee notes the current shortage of language skills and its impact on the economy, and that there is some disparity between what languages are being learned, the levels achieved and what languages are in demand by employers. The Committee is of the view that there would be a value in developing greater networks between businesses, higher education institutes and schools.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee therefore asks the SG and its agencies to indicate what</b></p>	<p>The SG accepted the Working Group recommendation that within the Broad General Education (described as pre-school to the end of S3) schools further develop the links between language learning and issues of employability and citizenship. SG will continue to fund SCILT to continue to promote languages and language learning to learners, parents, senior management in schools and LAs, and to the wider community and will support schools to develop a range of partnerships, including links with business via their Business Language Champions Programme. At point 12 above we outline that the SG also accepted LWG recommendation that there be further engagement with the FE and HE sectors to look to develop the experience of language learning for students. This will help to develop networks between HEI and schools.</p> <p>This issue links with the wider skills agenda throughout education, and ES are keen to support schools' efforts to forge links with local employers as well as supporting teaching in schools which equips learners well for the world of work. This is a growing area of focus to ensure the 1+2 initiative ties in with the wider Government agenda on youth employment, skills development in the young workforce and the EU mobility agenda. One example of the sort of approach wanted is the new SQA award - Modern Languages for Life and Work which provides an attractive package for learners who wish to combine employability skills with learning a modern language for practical purposes.</p>

<p>support it would be able to provide to promote improved cooperation between business and education providers and support the EU mobility agenda for young people; a possible example being the recently launched Modern Apprenticeship Ambassador initiative by Skills Development Scotland in which language skills could be integral. (para 95)</p>	
<p><b>15. On the issue of which language should be learned, the Committee concludes that teaching a broad variety of languages in Scotland is important to allow for the changing needs of students, and also to reflect any future changes in Scotland's cultural or economic needs. Furthermore, the</b></p>	<p>Continuing to engage with our nearest neighbours in Europe is likely to remain a priority for young people in Scotland. Therefore learning French, German, Italian and Spanish will continue to have an important place.</p> <p>Gaelic has a distinct profile in Scottish language learning and includes education through the medium of the language and Gaelic learner education in both primary and secondary. The SG will continue to promote Gaelic at all levels. It is an endangered minority language and a number of undertakings have been agreed in line with the Council of Europe Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.</p> <p>Ultimately the choice of language learned rests with the Las. See response to para 77 above.</p> <p>In addition the new economies of the future may also be taken into account – as Scotland has already started to do by encouraging the promotion of Chinese.</p>

<p><b>Committee considers that acquiring the skills to be able to learn languages is as important as which language is learned. (para 108)</b></p>	
<p><b>16. The Committee also believes that it is important that the levels to which a language can be learned are responsive to the learner's needs, and also to the wider need for proficiency in languages from employers. (para 109)</b></p>	<p>SQA have been looking at the diversification of the types of qualification that are on offer, especially with the new qualifications coming in under Curriculum for Excellence. There are National Qualifications ranging from National 1 Units to Courses at National 2, National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. They have also introduced new qualifications such as the Modern Languages for Life and Work Award, which is available across 10 languages and provides learners with an opportunity to study one or two modern languages in combination with employability skills, while also being able to follow their own interests in a cultural context. The Award can be studied at SCQF levels three and four. It can be taken in Senior Phase or earlier. It puts more emphasis on practical skills such as talking and listening that are brought into a language qualification and seek to deliver communicative competency and to put languages into a context that allows young people to see the many ways that languages are useful in an employment setting. This award is available in 10 languages, three of which previously had no qualification available: Cantonese, Russian and Polish. Gaelic language learning also operates on different levels and we recognise the importance of Gaelic medium education providing young people with the skills to use Gaelic as they move on to further and higher education or to seek employment opportunities in the language.</p>
<p><b>17. The Committee fully supports the call for greater links in the school curriculum between languages and other subjects, such as STEM subjects, recognises the</b></p>	<p>We agree to the call for greater links in the school curriculum between languages and other subjects. This is described as interdisciplinary learning (IDL). IDL is one of the four contexts (modes of learning) recognised by Curriculum for Excellence. ES has issued a practitioners' briefing on IDL. This link gives guidance to the practitioners about a planned approach to learning which uses links across different subjects or disciplines to enhance learning <a href="#">here</a>. Gaelic medium education also includes the learning of other subjects through the Gaelic language at both primary and secondary.</p>

<p><b>SG's actions in this area and asks the SG how it intends to develop this work in association with educational institutions. (para 110)</b></p>	
<p><b>18. The Committee is of the view that given the variety of ASN ; the best approach would be to promote greater awareness and sharing of best practice and material - as opposed to a national level programme. The Committee calls on the SG to propose how the 1 + 2 initiative can take into account children with ASN, and calls for implementation of the initiative to ensure that children with ASN are adequately provided for. (para 111)</b></p>	<p>SG is very aware that research shows that children with ASN can stand to gain from learning a second language. There are a number of examples of good practice in this area, including for example Hollybrook Special School in Glasgow where they are learning German S1-3 and organising trips to Germany for older pupils and French is taught at Pilrig Park Special Secondary school, as well as in some mainstream schools where there is a Department of Additional Support e.g. Glenrothes High School.</p> <p>The 1+2 policy applies to children with ASN as it does to all children. LAs need to take account of this in their language strategies. SCILT will be developing a case study of Hollybrook.</p>
<p><b>19. The Committee welcomed the Minister's agreement to look further into the issues of sign language</b></p>	<p>The SG <b>recognised BSL</b> as a language on 5 March 2011, rather than just a method of communication support, and has always treated it as such.</p> <p>A key recommendation from the Languages Working Group was that LAs should draw up local language strategies. The Group's report noted that LAs should acknowledge that for</p>

<p>and how it could be considered as a language as part of the 1+2 initiative. The Committee calls for British Sign Language (BSL) to be given parity with other languages covered under the 1+2 initiative. The Committee asks the SG to report to the Committee once a decision has been made on this issue, and calls for implementation of the initiative to ensure that children who wish to study BSL as a language are adequately provided for. (para 112)</p>	<p>some children their first or main language is BSL SG will report back to Committee when it is informed by LAs of progress achieved to provide for children who wish to study BSL.</p>
<p><b>Theme 4</b>  <b>Policy and development</b> – how to implement the SG’s proposal effectively; the capacity for further language teaching in the curriculum, the continuity in language teaching between primary and secondary schools, and the need for pupils to be able to continue one language from primary school in secondary school</p>	
<p><b>20. The Committee asks the SG’s implementation group to address the disparity of language learning provision across LAs, and how best to provide a national</b></p>	<p>As regards the Committee’s first point, the LWG report states that inspection evidence shows an inconsistent quality in modern languages practice. The LWG recommends that ES lead on support for Curriculum development in schools to help create a equality of provision: <i>‘There are clear implications for many schools for the development of course materials associated with the roll-out of a 1+2 language policy. Much valuable work is already being done by modern languages teachers to develop materials and activities which are imaginative and relevant and which promote real progression. However, this is not uniformly the case. Where there is poor pedagogy and the use of uninspiring materials,</i></p>

<p>approach to language teaching which would still allow for local flexibility and delivery. The Committee calls for a cultural change in local authority provision of language teaching to ensure greater articulation between primary and secondary schools. (para 118)</p>	<p><i>young people are not engaged in their learning and are not motivated to continue with language study. It is important to ensure that language learning is attractive to young people and that they recognise the relevance of language learning skills to their lives and future careers. In secondary schools support for the development of curricular materials and resources for a 1+2 policy, within the context of Curriculum for Excellence, should be led by ES.</i></p> <p>Within this context, the SIG minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> May has recorded an action for ES and SCILT to create learning guidelines for the teaching of the first additional language in primary one to be available by December. ES also have important inspection functions which amongst other things ascertain consistency of quality. In terms of clear targets, CfE has clear Expectations and Outcomes for languages as for other areas, and SQA are the ultimate arbiters of standards through their qualifications.</p> <p>On the Committee's latter point, progression from primary school to secondary school requires effective working together by the different levels of schooling to ensure smooth transition. Before pupils are ready to arrive in S1, the secondary school should have a clear sense of pupils' prior learning in other languages. LAs will need to make sure that primary schools have specific links with their secondary schools. Local language plans/strategies can help ensure that effective account can be taken of prior language learning. The point is that there is existing good practice in other curricular areas which is of relevance to consider when planning to build up what happens in languages. (This is discussed at para 134 also)</p> <p>This emphasis on continuity is also vital for Gaelic medium education.</p>
<p><b>21. The Committee asks the SG to report to the Committee on how it will provide clarity on the objectives, timescales and targets of the 1 + 2 initiative. This should cover how it will disseminate</b></p>	<p>The SIG is set up to oversee the achievement of LWG recommendations and once realised we anticipate that the conditions will be in place to accomplish the 1+2 policy commitment. The success of 1+2 will depend upon delivery by LA who will decide realistic targets and timescales to meet the policy commitment. However, the SIG will retain oversight and is considering what may be suitable targets for LAs to aim for, with a view to providing guidance of relevance across Scotland while acknowledging each LA's role and responsibility in its own area.</p> <p>SG will report to the Committee after the SIG interim report in June 2014, which will provide greater clarity on the objectives, timescales and targets. All information will be</p>



<p><b>information to key stakeholders</b>  <b>In addition, the Committee asks that the implementation group is cognisant of any European Union policy coordination in relation to Education and Training 2020.</b>  <b>(para 119)</b></p>	<p>disseminated through the SIG members organisations to the Las and the key stakeholder organisations.</p> <p>On the second point, as mentioned in connection to para 83, the director of SCILT who is also on the SIG, sits on the EU languages in Education and Training working Group. SG also has its own contacts with in DfE. Through these networks SG and the SIG will be kept informed of any EU policy coordination in relation to Education and Training 2020.</p>
<p><b>22. The Committee recognises that building capacity among teachers to deliver language learning is crucial to the success of the 1 + 2 initiative. It is clear that there needs to be a long-term strategy to deliver the step change in language learning which the 1 + 2 initiative aspires to. The Committee therefore calls on the SG to consider how resources can be developed and mobilised in a creative way in the short-term to make the best progress possible with the</b></p>	<p>SG agrees that it is crucial to invest in the teaching resource to achieve success of the 1+2 initiative. The LWG recommended that teachers with an interest and aptitude for languages teaching be supported in developing the range of languages in which they are qualified or trained to teach. The SG accepted this recommendation agreeing that implementation of a 1+2 approach will require best use of all available resources including the potential for existing language teachers to extend their range of language skills. SG will discuss with LAs what further support can be offered to help build teacher capacity within the system and we will draw on the committee's findings to do that. In the meantime SG has enhanced its support for SCILT to enable it to extend its CPD provision for language teachers. The support provided by SCILT and ES is detailed more fully in response to para 66.</p>

<p>1 + 2 initiative, for example, by greater use of universities and cultural institutions as working partners, more joint working in hubs/clusters, language assistants from various sources and effective IT resources. (para 128)</p>	
<p><b>23. The Committee acknowledges the scale of the issue of continuity, and asks the SG to report back on the implementation group's progress in this area as the issue is so essential to making the 1 + 2 initiative work effectively. The Committee calls for greater articulation between primary and secondary schools, and asks that LAs ensure that students are able to continue studying at least one language continuously through primary school and secondary</b></p>	<p>We accepted the LWG recommendation that primary and secondary schools work effectively together to ensure articulation between the sectors in terms of content, skills and approaches to learning and to enable effective transition, progression and continuity between P7 and S1, particularly for the L2 language. Some primary schools may not yet have specific language links with their secondary schools and this will need to be addressed. Implementation of this recommendation within local language plans can help ensure that effective account can be taken of prior language learning.</p> <p>As referred to in our response to para 118 above, we are aware of some LAs where a cluster approach is being taken forward and all of the feeder primary schools and the secondary school language staff meet regularly to ensure that transition from primary to secondary is seamless.</p> <p>Languages are not the only curricular area where transition between primary and secondary is relevant. There is existing good practice in other curricular areas which is of relevance to consider when planning to build up what happens in languages. For example, Scottish Schools Educational Research Centre supports cluster work with primaries in science, helping to ensure good transitions to secondary.</p> <p>One tool which will help address this transition is the pupil profile. The production of a profile will draw on regular ongoing discussions between learners and staff to sum up and record learners' progress and achievement. Profiles will be produced at the key transition points of P7 and S3 to ensure recognition of achievement and to develop a positive</p>

<b>school. 134)</b>	<b>(para</b>	statement of a young person's achievements within and outwith school.
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## COMENIUS, ERASMUS STATISTICS JULY 2013

### 1. COMENIUS

#### **Comenius School Partnerships (Multilateral and Bilateral): Applications Received**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	710 (76%)	60 (6%)	103 (11%)	67 (7%)	940
2012	635 (75%)	63 (7%)	81 (10%)	65 (8%)	844
2013	663 (76%)	60 (7%)	79 (9%)	64 (8%)	871

#### **Comenius School Partnerships (Multilateral and Bilateral): Applications Awarded**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	332 (75%)	29 (6%)	58 (13%)	25 (6%)	444
2012	316 (69%)	42 (9%)	53 (12%)	45 (10%)	456
Grants (€)	7,275,000	930,000	1,130,000	980,000	10,315,000
2013	593 (76%)	52 (7%)	69 (9%)	59 (8%)	773
Grants (€)	8,508,276	783,657	1,007,559	895,608	11,195,100

A total of 773 projects were approved for funding at the Evaluation Committee. This represents a success rate of 90%. Figures shown for approved partnerships (and grant values) in 2013 are provisional only.

#### **Comenius Regio Partnerships: Applications Received**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	24 (77%)	3 (10%)	2 (6.5%)	2 (6.5%)	31
2012	22 (85%)	1 (4%)	3 (11%)	0 (0%)	26
2013	37 (79%)	3 (6%)	7 (15%)	0 (0%)	47

**Comenius Regio Partnerships: Applications Awarded**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	19 (79%)	2 (8.5%)	2 (8.5%)	1 (4%)	24
2012	18 (86%)	1 (4%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	21
Grants (€)	656,869	45,000	80,062	0	781,931
2013	35 (78%)	3 (7%)	7 (15%)	0	45
Grants (€)	1,247,454	111,951	239,895	0	1,599,300

A total of 45 projects were approved for funding at the Evaluation Committee – equivalent to a success rate of 96%. Figures shown for approved partnerships (and grant values) in 2013 are provisional only.

**Comenius In-Service Training (IST): Application Received**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	679 (68%)	168 (17%)	65 (7%)	84 (8%)	996
2012	905 (67%)	241 (18%)	71 (5%)	125 (10%)	1342
2013 R1-2	673 (66%)	213 (21%)	43 (4%)	85 (9%)	1015

**Comenius In-Service Training (IST): Application Awarded**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011	495 (64%)	144 (19%)	55 (7%)	74 (10%)	768
<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2012	460 (62%)	153 (21%)	41 (5%)	87 (12%)	741
Grants (€)	587,286	450,816	105,111	208,932	1,352,145
2013 R1-2	584 (66%)	190 (21%)	36 (4%)	76 (9%)	886
Grants (€)	1,583,307	503,780	95,958	215,905	2,398,950

55% of all applications received so far in 2013 have been approved for funding. Results from the second application round are still awaited. There will be one further application deadline: 17 September.

**Comenius Assistants: Applications Received**

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011 Host Schools	157 (79%)	13 (6%)	15 (8%)	14 (7%)	199
2011 Assistants	135 (61%)	76 (35%)	5 (2%)	5 (2%)	221
2012 Host Schools	174 (81%)	14 (7%)	9 (4%)	16 (8%)	213
2012 Assistants	209 (70%)	68 (23%)	8 (2%)	15 (5%)	300
2013 Host	215 (79%)	30 (11%)	12 (4%)	17 (6%)	274

Schools					
2013 Assistants	249 (66%)	110 (29%)	10 (3%)	9 (2%)	378

### Comenius Assistants: Applications Awarded

Year	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
2011 Host Schools	128 (79%)	10 (6%)	11 (7%)	12 (8%)	161
2011 Assistants	101 (59%)	64 (38%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	171
2012 Host Schools	138 (84%)	9 (5%)	7 (4%)	11 (7%)	165
2012 Assistants	177 (70%)	58 (23%)	8 (3%)	11 (4%)	254
Grants (€)	1,155,700	379,730	49,530	66,040	1,651,000
2013 Host Schools	189 (79%)	27 (11%)	11 (5%)	13 (5%)	240
2013 Assistants	205 (64%)	97 (31%)	9 (3%)	6 (2%)	317
Grants (€)	1,411,156	683,528	66,148	44,099	2,204,931

Figures shown for approved assistantships (and grant values) in 2013 are provisional only. A drop-out rate of 15-20% is expected, as individuals find employment during the academic year 2013-14.

## 2. ERASMUS

A table showing percentage change between actuals on and projections

2011/12 - 2012/13: Students	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
Study Mobility: 2012/13 (Projected)	7,422	1,448	542	230	9,642
Study Mobility: 2011/12	6,960	1,362	544	228	9,094
Study Mobility: Numbers Change	462	86	-2	2	548
Study Mobility: Percentage Change	7%	6%	-0.4%	1%	6%
Work Placement Mobility: 2012/13 (Projected)	3,955	413	172	220	4,760
Work Placement Mobility: 2011/12	3,771	448	144	205	4,568
Work Placement Mobility: Numbers Change	184	-35	28	15	192
Work Placement Mobility: Percentage Change	5%	-8%	19%	72%	4%
Total Student Mobility: 2012/13 (Proj.)	11,377	1,861	714	450	14,402
Grants (€)	31,224,745	4,806,274	1,908,872	1,378,274	39,318,165
Total Student Mobility: 2011/12	10,731	1,810	688	433	13,662
Total Student Mobility: Numbers Change	646	51	26	17	740
Total Student Mobility: Percentage Change	6%	3%	4%	4%	5%

**Student Mobility:** Provisional figures for 2012/13 suggest a rise of 6% in UK outgoing student mobility – slightly below last year's rise of 7% (the highest in the 25-year history of the programme).

**Work placement mobility:** Work Placement mobility has risen by 4% in 2012/13.

<i>2011/12 - 2012/13: Staff</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Teaching Mobility: 2012/13 (Projected)	1,387	225	118	30	1,760
Teaching Mobility: 2011/12	1,325	217	102	33	1,677
Teaching Mobility: Numbers Change	62	8	16	-3	83
Teaching Mobility: Percentage Change	5%	4%	16%	-9%	5%
Training Mobility: 2012/13 (Projected)	448	63	20	5	536
Training Mobility: 2011/12	414	55	26	3	498
Training Mobility: Numbers Change	34	8	-6	2	38
Training Mobility: Percentage Change	8%	15%	-23%	67%	8%
Total Staff Mobility: 2012/13 (Proj.)	1,835	288	138	35	2,296
Grants (€)	2,391,519	377,649	186,326	36,827	2,992,321
Total Staff Mobility: 2011/12	1,739	272	128	36	2,175
Total Staff Mobility: Numbers Change	96	16	10	-1	121
Total Staff Mobility: Percentage Change	6%	6%	8%	-3%	6%

**Staff Mobility:** As in 2011/12, staff mobility has increased by 6% in the UK overall – though this masks variations in the different UK countries.

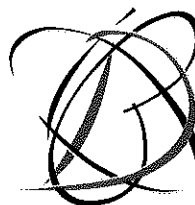
**Bologna Experts:** A Bologna Expert based at University of Ulster has recently been appointed and is working closely with colleagues to improve support for further and higher education in Northern Ireland.

In January 2013 the Bologna Expert team delivered a workshop which provided advice and guidance to universities, FE colleges and local stakeholders who wished to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Erasmus programme. An additional event took place in April 2013 to provide guidance to institutions wishing to apply for the Diploma Supplement.

British Council  
July 2013



**Annexe B**



# BDA

COMANN NA H-ALBA AIRSON NAM BODHAR  
DEAF ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

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Christina McKelvie  
Convener  
European and External Relations Committee  
M4.12  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

04 September 2013

Dear Ms McKelvie

**RE: Foreign Language Learning in Primary Schools**

It was with great interest that I read the report "Foreign Language Learning in Primary Schools" produced by the European and External Relations Committee and I would like to raise a number of issues.

As the largest national \*Deaf organisation run by and for Deaf people, the British Deaf Association is in the unique position to comment on issues relating to that of British Sign Language (BSL). Contrary to the above publication which states "*it was not clear whether BSL would be counted as a language*" (point 107, pg 24), BSL is a fully functioning language in its own right with its own distinct vocabulary, grammar and syntax and was officially recognised back in March 2003. BSL is now recognised on the same level as other languages of the United Kingdom such as Scottish, Welsh and Gaelic but in actual fact has the highest number of monolingual users of any of the indigenous minority languages within the UK.

While the BDA welcomes the Ministers agreement to "*look further into the issues of sign language and how it could be considered as a language as part of the 1+2 initiative*" (point 112, pg 25), it firmly agrees with the committees call for BSL to be given parity with all the other languages covered under the 1+2 initiative.

The BDA is particularly interested to note the committee's suggestion to "*tap more comprehensively into the community language skills of those who have come to Scotland from other countries (particularly on a cultural basis as this was seen as intrinsic to communicating for leisure and business)*" (point 80, pg17), and would argue that this also applies to those native to Scotland but using Sign Language. Estimates for the number of people in the UK whose first or preferred language is BSL is estimated to be between 50,000 (AoHL) and 70,000 (BDA) and this figure does not include those who use Sign Language on a daily basis such as family members, teachers of the Deaf, professionals working with Deaf people etc. As a member organisation, the BDA believes it can facilitate this link between language learners and language models from the Deaf community. BDA are also in the position to offer advice and support with regards to setting up a pilot project in mainstream schools where Deaf children currently attend.

**Our vision**

Deaf people fully participating and contribution as equal and valued citizens in the wider society

Parton: HRH The Duke of York, KCVO, AOC. Chair: Dr Terry Riley. Chief Executive Officer: David Buxton MBA  
Register Office: British Deaf Association, 18 Lether Lane, London EC1N 7SU  
Company limited by guarantee number 2881497. Registered charity number 1031687 (England and Wales) and SC042409 (Scotland)

The recognition that there should be a *broad choice of languages in school beyond the usual choice of French and German and sometimes Spanish ... more variety* (point 100, pg22) is welcomed and we believe that the introduction of BSL in schools would not only help with language development, improve employment opportunities but also work towards making a more equal society where Deaf people have easy access and communication.

I would be very grateful if you could raise our concerns and comments to the committee and I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss these issues further if that would be appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Majella McAteer  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER  
SCOTLAND

\* Please note use of convention of using deaf (lower-case "d") to indicate the audiological condition of not hearing, and Deaf (upper-case "D") to indicate those who identify culturally and linguistically as members of the Deaf community.

**European and External Relations Committee**

**15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 19 September 2013**

**Scottish Government Response to the China Plan Report**

**Background**

1. The European and External Relations Committee conducted an inquiry into the Scottish Government's Country Plan for China and International Framework during spring 2013 and published a report of its findings and recommendations in June 2013. The Report welcomed the republication of the updated Plan and the advances made in economic engagement between Scotland and China. The Report also made several key recommendations to the Scottish Government about the future of the design and implementation of the Plan and the potential for improvements to it.

2. The Scottish Government responded to the Committee's Report on 19 August 2013. The document sets out the Scottish Government's position on each of the Committee's recommendations. The response is annexed to this paper.

**Recommendation**

3. The Committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to take further action or ask for further information on any aspect of the Scottish Governments response.

**Lauren Spaven-Donn**  
**Assistant Clerk**  
**September 2013**

Minister for External Affairs and International Development  
Humza Yousaf MSP

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Christina McKelvie MSP  
Convener  
Europe and External Relations Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
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19 August 2013

Dear Convener

I enclose a copy of the response to the Committee's report on the Scottish Government's Country Plan for China. This has been completed jointly by the Scottish Government and Scotland Development International and also includes detail of my recent visit to China and Hong Kong.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for all its work with stakeholders on this inquiry. In particular, I welcome the Committee's support for the Scottish Government's ongoing engagement with China.

I hope the Committee finds the response helpful.

HUMZA YOUSAF



## **INQUIRY INTO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S COUNTRY PLAN FOR CHINA**

### **Joint response to the Committee's Inquiry from the Scottish Government and Scottish Development International.**

This report has been compiled jointly by the Scottish Government and Scottish Development International (SDI) following the European and External Relations Committee's report on their inquiry into the Scottish Government's China Plan published on 23 June 2013. This report responds to the recommendations put forward in the inquiry report. We would like to thank the Committee for their investigations and recommendations and will continue to provide updates as appropriate on a variety of matters arising from this inquiry.

### **Design and Implementation of the China Plan**

**Recommendation 1 : The Committee would welcome a response from SDI on how it could make progress in supporting business to business partnerships between Scottish and Chinese companies, promoting the work of the industry groups established by Scottish Enterprise and facilitating more mentoring and business incubation schemes, particularly among SMEs**

We agree that there should be support in business to business partnerships between Scottish and Chinese companies, and currently much of SDI's work is around assisting Scottish businesses to develop networks and relationships in China. In the last year SDI has increased its presence in mainland China including opening a new office in Shenzhen. The number of staff has increased by nearly 30%, which should also help provide more support for future partnerships.

When companies are starting the engagement process SDI help them in a range of ways, including:

- Market research, advice on market entry business model/strategy.
- Identifying partners including agents, distributors and even potential clients.
- Helping with the set-up of sales office and partnership or even joint venture and wholly owned subsidiaries.
- Organising trade missions as a learning journey for exhibitions.
- One to one assistance, follow ups, etc.

As part of this process SDI work with businesses to support them finding a partner, such as a reputable agent or representative. This is a major way for Scottish companies, and especially SME's, to start to export into the Chinese market. The support that SDI offer may include:

- Using our own in-country staff to develop connections. This work includes identifying the agents and distributors according to the enquiry of the Scottish companies and the nature of their products/services. We then provide advice accordingly.
- Attending trade shows where connections can be made.
- Using peers and GlobalScots to give advice.
- Using the UKTI Overseas Market Introduction System (OMIS) service which, as part of the service, looks at channels to markets.
- Conducting a high level due diligence check on potential agents e.g. to check the companies are not black listed.



With regard to the development of business incubation schemes, the China Britain Business Council (CBBC) and SDI currently work together to offer a service called 'Launchpad' and SDI directs businesses to this. Launchpad provides businesses with a simple, cost-effective, low-risk and legal means of having a presence in China before setting up office there. As part of the service CBBC can employ a 'project manager' dedicated to helping take a business forward in China, available in Beijing, Chengdu Chongqing, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen, or Wuhan. SDI will look at how it can further build on its good relations with CBBC and also look at any further support it can provide to companies to use incubation facilities.

SDI also helps to support these partnerships through promoting mentoring groups like the GlobalScots, which was established by Scottish Enterprise in 2001. GlobalScot is a prestigious, international network of Scots, and those with an affinity for Scotland, who are committed to advancing Scotland's economic success. Scottish Enterprise designed and created this network of over 630 senior business people based globally and working across Scotland's key sectors who are committed to assisting Scotland. The network seeks to develop and expand Scotland's standing in the global business community by utilising their talents to establish a worldwide network of individuals who are outstanding in their field. Scottish companies can freely draw on this network for advice, contacts, assistance and support.

This assistance can range from market advice and interactions to much deeper levels of engagement including advisory roles on industry bodies and non-executive roles within Scotland's most ambitious companies. There are currently 16 GlobalScot members in China representing key sectors, including Food & Drink, Energy, Financial and Business Services, and Technology. Some examples of members in this region are:

- Ma Ming, Chairwoman, Shanghai Yong Fang Financial Services Ltd
- Philip Carmichael, Chairman, IPC China
- Alan Jope, Chairman, Greater China, Unilever
- Philip Smiley, CEO Kantar Retail Asia Pacific, Kantar Retail Group

During the Minister for External Affairs and International Development's visit to China in June 2013, his final engagement was to host a dinner in Hong Kong with twelve Global Scots and Scots business leaders. This was an opportunity to thank them for their continued support and effort on behalf of Scotland, update them on Scotland's latest headlines in business and listen to their views, reflecting our own, about the importance of Hong Kong as a bridge into mainland China.

**Recommendation 2 : While there is clearly a significant volume of work being undertaken by SDI and Scottish Enterprise to deliver the targets of the China Plan, there is a need to tackle the perception that there is a lack of awareness of the existence of the Plan itself and the support available from the Scottish Government among some of the stakeholders. The Committee recognises that progress that has already been achieved and calls on the Scottish Government to consider how it could work more directly with SME's and their representative bodies, in both the drafting and delivery of the next China Plan, in order to improve stakeholder involvement and delivery of the next China Plan's targets.**

As discussed with the committee, there is a growing interest in China from businesses and business organisations and industry bodies. We already have good working relations with business organisations and industry groups and would look to continue this engagement and work closely with them when implementing the current China Strategy.



When drafting the China Strategy, the Scottish Government and our stakeholders held a number of specific sectoral events to gather views and insight into our current and future engagement with China. This included a high-level conference in March 2012, which brought together almost 100 key China partners from across sectors to feed into the strategy's development. The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, along with the Chinese Consul General, Mr Li, delivered keynote addresses to the event. SDI held a China Trade and Investment specific event on 25 May 2012 to consider the development of the China Strategy (a list of stakeholders has previously been forwarded to the Committee). An event was held for the Chinese Community and written views were invited.

The China Strategy sets out in the *Implementation and Delivery* annex the measures we will take to ensure achievements of the targets. This includes the establishment of an Implementation and Delivery Forum, to share best practice and practical expertise, including how to build partnerships and collaboration to deliver the strategy. To give this forum strategic focus, it will involve central representative groups or groups with a major strategic interest in collaboration with China. The first meeting of this Forum will take place in September and we will also look to launch an online hub at around that time, in order to further share information and expertise between Scotland and China. We are supportive of opportunities for stakeholders to share ideas, experiences, and cross sector work, and we are always happy to receive suggestions and recommendations on cross sector opportunities, to work to meet both stakeholder as well as government objectives.

The Scottish Government is fortunate to have a Scottish Affairs Office based in the British Embassy in Beijing run by the First Secretary of Scottish Affairs, who is supported by two locally employed members of staff. The role of the Scottish Affairs Office is to add value in a way that will improve and facilitate the engagement of Scottish stakeholders in China in areas that contribute to the Government's China Strategy and ultimately our purpose of sustainable economic growth.

The *Implementation and Delivery* annex also sets out how we will capitalise on our common interests – identifying them and working to make most of opportunities. It is important that we focus on those activities where we can add the most value and boost exports to China and investment from China. Although there have been dips and peaks over the past decade, China has been an important trading partner for Scotland. An independent evaluation of SDI showed that for every £1 SDI spends on export support to China, an additional £7 is generated for the Scottish economy. (source: SQW, 2010)

Over the past five years we have seen the number of companies trading or investing with China that are supported by SDI increase from 77 a year in 2007/8 to 208 companies in 2012/13 an increase of 270%, and an increase in the last year of 22%. It is important to understand that for many of these businesses it will take time to grow their exports in China and our support should be viewed in terms of longer term gains.

**Recommendation 3: The Committee recommends that the suggestions made by Philip Morgan regarding the need for a risk assessment and a strategy for mitigation, are represented in the next Plan or a public document deemed appropriate by the Scottish Government.**

We will consider the Committee's recommendations with regard to the next Plan. The current China Strategy is a high level document and the management and mitigation of risk is a continuous process which takes place at an operational level.



## Government Level Relations

**Recommendation 4 :** The Committee recognises the importance of Scottish Government ministerial engagement and was interested to hear examples of the successes of Ministerial visits. It would welcome any further information on the links between these trade visits and the award of contracts. The Committee would also encourage the Scottish Government to continue to emphasise the vital role that the government visits to China play, and work with the Scottish business networks to establish the best dates and events around which such visits can take place, for example, during trade fairs, exhibitions and expos, in order to maximise returns for the Scottish economy and ensure value for money.

The Scottish Government has further developed our strategic approach to international visit planning, which takes account of our priority countries and other opportunities which contribute to delivering our international ambitions. Ministerial visits to China form an important part of our international engagement and there is co-ordination amongst Team Scotland partners to ensure that visits are planned, proactive, purposeful and policy led in order to achieve maximum impact.

We agree with the Committee that Ministers have a key role to play with regards to opening doors and fostering high level relationships given China's business culture. Establishing and maintaining Government to Government relationships in China, allows more detailed business discussions between companies to then take place. Through our economic development agencies, we already engage with Scottish business to determine the best opportunities for Ministerial visits and trade missions. SDI has also recently formed a Visits Team to further strengthen the alignment of Scottish companies with potential Ministerial activity where a joint approach can deliver additional benefits.

For example, the focus of the Minister for External Affairs and International Development's visit to China in June 2013 was to build on the successes we have secured to date and continue promoting Scotland as an attractive proposition for investment, trade, research, tourism and cultural collaboration – in line with the priorities and guiding principles of our new China Strategy. Whilst in country, the Minister, who was accompanied by the Chief Executive of SDI, carried out a range of governmental and business engagements. This included a meeting with the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen, one of China's most vibrant regional economies, to consider closer collaboration, especially in the field of cultural industries. This was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Edinburgh City Council and Shenzhen Municipal Government on establishing joint International Creative Business Incubation Centres. This is a long term programme designed to generate international collaboration through business and investment across Edinburgh and Shenzhen in the creative sectors.

## Challenges to trade

**Recommendation 5 :** The Committee is encouraged to hear that numerous partnerships between educational and cultural institutions in Scotland and China are currently active. The committee concurs with stakeholders' suggestions that this is the most important way to strengthen links with China and increase Scotland's profile as a place to study and visit. In line with the Committee's separate inquiry into the teaching of languages in primary schools, the Committee would welcome more opportunities to learn Mandarin or Cantonese at all stages of education. A good example would be the Hanban and Confucius Institute, currently undertaking work in this area across Scotland. The Committee also considers that the development of



## **cultural links and tourism would further support business opportunities for Scottish firms in China.**

We welcome the Committee's response, and agree that educational links are important at all levels. Within Scottish higher education, institutions continue to develop and build collaborative partnerships with China and with Chinese universities. 18 Scottish higher education institutions have academic and research links with Chinese higher education institutions, offering mutually beneficial research arrangements and study opportunities for students from both Scotland and China. Areas of research collaboration include archaeology (Aberdeen), primary health care and genomics (Edinburgh), life sciences and engineering (Glasgow), environmental studies (Heriot Watt), physics and chemistry (St Andrews) and aquaculture (Stirling).

In 2011-12 there were 8,075 students from China (including Hong Kong, and Macau) studying at Higher Education Institutions and Colleges in Scotland (a 22 per cent increase from 2010-11). The Scottish University sector also has close links with Hanban (the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language) and there are currently four Confucius Institutes in Scotland. The sector is actively engaged in looking at ways to further develop these links with China.

At the vocational education level, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been operating in China since 2003 and has 29 approved centres. In academic session 2012/13 the number of certificated candidates was over 3400. SQA offers 15 HND subjects in China. New National Qualifications in Mandarin and Cantonese at Higher and Advanced Higher were launched in May 2009 by the Scottish Qualifications Authority to add to existing qualifications. Mandarin examination presentations have increased year on year since 2007 and in 2011/2012, there were 298 presentations at 5 different levels, compared to 82 presentations in 2008/09.

Furthermore, the Scottish Government runs Saltire Scholarships, which are designed to link to the priority sectors of creative industries, life sciences, technology, financial services and renewable and clean energy. The scheme sees 200 awards of £2,000 per annum (£1,000 from Scottish Government, match funded by the host institution) allocated across the Scottish Government's key priority countries, and 50 have been specifically allocated to China. In addition, the Scottish Government funds places for Scottish based students on the Study China programme, which provides 3-week study trips to China. It is also joint funding the Eric Liddell China Saltire Scholarships with the University of Edinburgh from 2013-14. Additionally in 2012-13, the Hong Kong-Scotland Partners in Post-Doctoral Research initiative was launched to stimulate and strengthen academic and research links between Scotland and Hong Kong.

With regard to primary and secondary level education, the Scottish Government has taken a number of steps to extend the teaching of Chinese culture, history and language over the last four years, including the launch of 13 Confucius Classrooms in Scotland serving 17 local authorities (and over 60% of the school population) across the country, the launch of new national qualifications in Chinese languages at Higher and Advanced Higher as noted above to add to existing qualifications, and the funding for groups of young people and accompanying teachers to undertake summer study visits and immersion courses every year since 2009.

Learning Chinese languages is one part of learning about China, its history and its growing role in the modern world. This is important as it will help Scotland to strengthen its links with China. The need to do so is becoming increasingly more apparent in the current economic



climate. It is encouraging to see increasing numbers of young people taking, and passing, National Qualifications in Mandarin, a trend we expect to continue as the Confucius Classroom Hubs continue to develop and Chinese language and culture becomes embedded within Curriculum for Excellence. As local authorities and schools move towards implementation of the Languages 1+2 policy, Mandarin is being considered as either a new language to introduce or where it is already taught how capacity can be increased. The Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, based in Strathclyde University, works closely with schools and local authorities to provide resources, advice and assistance to allow progression of Mandarin teaching in Scotland.

The development of greater cultural links - cultural diplomacy - provides a platform to build trust and enable dialogue; support and influence policy making; strengthen and deepen relationships and provide a shared common voice. The First Minister signed a Cultural Memorandum of Understanding with China in December 2011. This has facilitated greater cultural engagement with China across all art forms. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of Scottish National Performing Companies applying to the Scottish Government's International Touring fund to take their art form to China. 2014 will see 3 of the National Performing Companies touring in China (RSNO, National Theatre of Scotland, Scottish Ballet) alongside a range of other art forms. A Chinese producer, based in Scotland, has been funded to promote and support cultural collaborations with the Scottish sector between the two nations.

With regard to tourism, given that all leisure travel to Scotland must be booked through an approved travel agent, VisitScotland's focus in China is on developing excellent relations with the travel trade, ensuring that travel agents have a good knowledge of Scotland and are promoting Scotland to their customers. Supplementing that activity, VisitScotland undertakes a concentrated PR programme to generate interest and knowledge among the consumer market.

As part of its programme of trade engagement, VisitScotland undertakes an annual sales mission to China, holding workshops for tour operators and travel agents to meet with Scottish partners. VisitScotland also attends key travel trade exhibitions and trade fairs to engage with leading operators. Each year VisitScotland hosts Chinese travel agents / tour operators at VisitScotland Expo, starting with 20 in 2008 and rising to around 40 in 2012. As a result of the trade missions which have been undertaken and VisitScotland's focus on working with the travel trade, Chinese operators have introduced a significant range of new products featuring Scotland e.g. Top View – St. Andrews golf product; Ctrip.com – Highlands and Loch Ness trip and Wangping Travel – Homecoming product range.

VisitScotland also operates an online training programme for travel agents – its SCOTS agents programme. Originally developed for the North American market, the programme was extended to the Middle East and Asia in 2007 and was translated into Chinese. There are now more than 800 travel agents enrolled in the programme in China, with 243 having completed the programme.

**Recommendation 6 : The Committee will look for ways to bring this issue (of tax rebates) into its wider work programme, and looks forward to receiving an update from the Scottish Government on the progress of its discussions with the UK Government in relation to trade agreements.**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Beijing is currently speaking to Todd & Duncan on the particular trade issue highlighted during the Committee's visit to the company. We will



continue to work closely with UK colleagues on trade barriers and highlight concerns as they arise.

## **China comparisons and market value**

**Recommendation 7 : The Committee welcomes the proposal to review the China Plan annually and asks that the Scottish Government share its findings, and any proposals for altering the Plan, with the Committee at an appropriate stage. The Committee would also suggest that more evidence of the progress made since the previous plan, be included at its next refresh, to support the need for Scotland's presence in China.**

We welcome the Committee's views and will share information related to the updating of the China Strategy at the appropriate stage. We will also consider the Committee's suggestion regarding the inclusion of evidence of progress at the strategy's next refresh.

## **Areas for development**

**Recommendation 8 : The Committee recognises the importance of the financial sector in the future to trading with China. It recommends the Scottish Government continues to emphasise this as one of the key sectors for engagement and continues to work at a Ministerial level to strengthen the opportunities for Scottish asset management, and other financial sector companies. The Committee recommends that further significant effort be made by the relevant bodies, to ensure that the profits from any such engagement, be delivered in a way which will benefit Scottish businesses.**

We agree with the Committee that Scotland does have significant opportunities within the financial sector in China. China's growing wealth is being invested in assets and those assets need to be managed both now and in the future. Scotland has world renowned expertise in asset management and SDI will continue to assist Scottish asset management companies to build their reputation and contacts with China's largest financial institutions.

SDI will continue to support Scottish fund management companies to capture the out-going asset from China, especially by promoting the expertise from Scotland and developing high level networks. We will also look to continue to build relationships with key players in the Chinese financial services sector such as China Investment Corporation, National Social Security Fund, regulatory bodies, Financial Services Offices, Financial Services Associations, as well as the asset management community.

**Recommendation 9 : The Committee would welcome updates on the Government's investigations into the hubs option, and details of any advances made in developing existing hubs.**

SDI has an office in Hong Kong and this works closely with our three offices in mainland China (Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen). We will investigate how we can further use our overall presence in Asia as a gateway to China.

**Recommendation 10 : The Committee is of the view that a direct air link would be of substantial assistance in the development of Scotland's business trade with China, as well as helping Scotland to become more of a tourist destination for the Chinese market and build its image as an international travel hub. The Committee therefore recommends that the Scottish Government continue to engage with China and the relevant Chinese air carriers, and the Civil Aviation Authority of China, as a matter of**



**priority. The Committee would welcome updates on the progress made by Transport Scotland and SDI, as offered by the Minister.**

We agree with the Committee, and recognise the value of a direct air link to China in boosting cultural engagement with China, as well as tourism and trade with one of the world's fastest growing economies. A direct air link between China and Scotland is a priority for the Scottish Government and its agencies. We have been engaging and will continue to engage with Chinese airlines, such as Air China, China Eastern, China Southern, and Hainan Airlines. We will be providing market intelligence/data and any other required information to advance the case for a direct route. These airlines represent the best prospect for establishing a direct air route.

The Minister for External Affairs and International Development held talks with Vice Minister Xia of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) in Beijing on 25 June. The meeting was constructive and all parties reiterated their desire to see quick progress made on the establishment of a direct air link. At this point we would believe that Air Passenger Duty at a punitive rate of £83 per passenger represents a substantial barrier to the start-up of a direct air link and the Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government for responsibility for the tax to be brought under the Scottish Parliament's remit.

**Recommendation 11 : The Committee is interested to hear about the value placed on having a physical presence in China, both for support agencies and for Scottish businesses themselves. It is also aware of how difficult establishing such a presence can be in China, and therefore the necessity of having the requisite support to acquire an office and local staff.**

The support offered to companies to acquire an office and local staff is outlined in the response to recommendation one.

On the issue of visibility of Scotland in China, the Committee noted that the branding of Scottish products and Scottish company offices is a key element in increasing Scotland's trade with China. SDI has strengthened its presence in China and is committed to promoting Scotland and Scottish products and services. In particular the promotion of Scottish education, food and drink, textiles, financial services and tourism to the growing middle class. As well as world class Scottish in oil and gas, renewable energy, life sciences, ICT and advanced engineering.

The Scottish Government is currently developing a marketing strategy to raise the awareness of Scotland in China, to engage with consumers and to support the communications objectives of the China Strategy. The Scottish Government's dual language website - [www.scotland.cn](http://www.scotland.cn) is designed to engage with Chinese consumers, raising their awareness and knowledge of Scotland. This site is currently being developed further to develop engaging and interactive content to allow us to better engage with Chinese audiences.

We continue to use Weibo to engage with Chinese audiences around Scottish news stories, pictures and features. Working with third parties, partners and key industry leaders such as NTS, Scottish universities, Festivals Edinburgh, we develop content to engage with Chinese audiences. We currently have 21,466 Weibo followers and are continually growing our social media following.

We also take advantage of all Ministerial visits to raise Scotland's profile through the Chinese media and work to engage key Chinese journalists based both in China and in the



UK. For example, the Minister for External Affairs and International Development's visit to China included press conferences and one to one interviews which received widespread positive media coverage, both in Scotland and internationally, helping to promote trade and collaboration between Scotland and China. The combined total of media outlets interacted with was 31 and the combined audience reach was 20.5 million.

Ministerial attendance at events also help to raise the profile of Scotland in China – for example on the First Minister's last visit to China in December 2011, he addressed a reception in Beijing which was being held to promote Scottish culture. Over 300 guests from a variety of sectors including business, culture, tourism and education were invited to sample a large selection of Scotland's finest food and drink.

On the tourism front - VisitScotland also has an intensive programme of PR in China, engaging with more than 50 consumer journalists on an annual basis, securing a number of major broadcast and print / online opportunities promoting Scotland. This coverage is secured both as a result of activity undertaken during sales missions and also from press trips organised by VisitScotland, where key journalists are hosted by VisitScotland and taken to various locations around the country.

**Recommendation 12 : The Committee recommends that the SDI place more emphasis on developing 'business incubation schemes' and making these more available to the businesses looking to move into the Chinese market. The Committee further suggests that SDI investigate how to use its own network of offices in China to provide greater support to companies unable to support their own China office thereby preventing smaller businesses being deterred from beginning engagement there.**

Business incubation schemes and the support provided to companies is provided in the response to recommendation one.

**European and External Relations Committee**

**15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 19 September 2013**

**Brussels Bulletin**

**Introduction**

1. The latest Brussels Bulletin – Issue 91 is attached in **Annexe**.

**Purpose of the Brussels Bulletin**

2. This Brussels Bulletin has been provided by Scotland Europa, on behalf of the Scottish Parliament, and is based on the European and External Relations Committee's work programme and the key EU priorities of the committees of the Parliament, as envisaged by the Scottish Parliament's EU Strategy (based upon each committee's assessment of the annual European Commission's Work Programme as it affects their area of competence).

3. This Bulletin is circulated to relevant parliamentary committees and is published on the Parliament's website.

**Recommendation**

**4. The Committee is invited to indicate whether it would like any of the follow-up actions listed below for any of the items contained in the Brussels Bulletin—**

- **A technical or procedural clarification of a particular issue**
- **A short briefing prepared by SPICe**
- **A more detailed policy update or briefing**
- **Request more information from the Scottish Government**
- **Request further evidence either in a written or oral form**

**5. The Committee is invited to consider the latest issue of the Brussels Bulletin and to agree to forward it to relevant committees for their consideration.**

**Katy Orr  
Clerk to the Committee**





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Agriculture and Fisheries

On 15 July, Ministers agreed a General Approach on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), which will replace the existing European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Ministers also discussed the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) issues relating to the multiannual financial framework of CAP reform which were left unresolved after the broad political agreement reached on CAP at the end of June.

### Telecoms

The Commission has put forward a package of legislative proposals to move towards a single market in the area of telecoms – described as the largest telecoms reform in the EU for 26 years. The package, called "Connected Continent", is aimed at improving consumer protection, cutting red tape and facilitating investment.

### State of the Union

On 11 September 2013 European Commission President José Manuel Barroso delivered his final State of the Union address before next year's European Parliament elections and the end of his term of office. Speaking in Strasbourg, President Barroso urged MEPs and EU citizens to "rise above purely national issues and parochial interests and to have real progress for Europe."

### Horizon 2020

The European Parliament, Commission and Council on 17 July reached provisional agreement on the research budget for 2014-2020, after tough negotiations over the preceding six months. The €70.2 billion budget

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

State Aid  
Key Enabling Technologies  
Tourism  
Creative Industries  
Unemployment  
Internationalising Higher Education  
Shadow Banking  
Water Quality  
Habitats  
Climate Change Funding  
Upcoming Events and Meetings

will fund three key 'pillars' of the Horizon 2020 programme.

### Connecting Europe Facility

Within the broader framework of the budgetary negotiations, the European Parliament and EU Governments provisionally agreed on 10 July the new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to finance energy, transport and ICT infrastructure projects.



**Agriculture and Fisheries.** Agreement on a General Approach on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) at the first Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the Lithuanian Presidency on 15 July, should result in greater simplification, and will make it easier for fishermen to access financing. The Council included in its long term plan for fisheries management plans for stocks and the setting of total allowable catches (TACs) for 2014. The agreement has enabled the Council to begin negotiations with the European Parliament, which is expected to vote on the agreement in October.

On the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), there was a debate in Council on those issues relating to the multiannual financial framework of CAP reform which were left unresolved after the broad political agreement reached on CAP at the end of June. The European Parliament has indicated that it would like to reopen negotiations on these unresolved issues in the autumn, however Member States have made it clear that the June agreement was the limit of the Council's position.

**Horizon 2020.** The European Parliament, Commission and Council on 17 July reached provisional agreement on the research budget for 2014-2020, after tough negotiations over the preceding six months. The €70.2 billion budget will fund three key 'pillars' of the Horizon 2020 programme:

- 'Excellent Science,' including funding for the European Research Centre, infrastructure and future emerging technologies (37% of funding)
- 'Industrial Leadership,' including specific support for SMEs and for key enabling industrial technologies (22.5%)
- 'Societal challenges,' which will steer research towards growing problems related to an ageing society and environmental challenges (38%)

A separate instrument within the Horizon programme will recognise the role of SMEs and pledge that 20% of Horizon 2020 is directed towards these companies. There will also be a new, simplified funding model to improve funding applications by reducing red tape and increasing the number of applicants for funding.

While obtaining a specific instrument for SMEs came as a success to the Parliament, it fell short of its aim to secure a fixed target for how much these companies will receive, as the Council strongly resisted a separate instrument approach. The Parliament also ultimately accepted a simplified funding model, despite insisting that the previous model should continue to be used alongside the new one.

The agreed text is still to be formally endorsed, and will be put to a parliamentary vote in the autumn.

**Connecting Europe Facility.** Within the broader framework of the budgetary negotiations, the European Parliament and EU Governments provisionally agreed on 10 July the new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to finance energy, transport and ICT infrastructure projects.

The agreement sees the overall 2014-2020 budget for the CEF set at approximately €30 billion, down from an original €50 billion proposed by the Commission. Of this total, around €23 billion will be devoted to transport projects; around €5 billion for energy; and the remaining roughly €2 billion for digital networks. The €30bn will also be used to leverage additional investment from private and public sources. Ireland's transport minister hailed the agreement as a "significant breakthrough," calling the CEF a "key instrument for targeted infrastructure investment at European level."



The agreement is informal and is yet to be formally endorsed by EU Governments and MEPs. The European Parliament is due to vote on the deal at its 22 October plenary session.

**State Aid.** Two European Commission proposals for revised regulations on state aid exemptions and procedures have been formally adopted by the EU's Council of Ministers. The new rules will contribute to the Commission's State Aid Modernisation (SAM) initiative.

The new main elements are:

- **Enabling Regulation:** introduces new categories of aid that the Commission may decide to exempt from the obligation of prior notification (block exemptions). This will aid the reduction of administration, allowing the Commission to focus its efforts on the most important cases. New categories include aid for innovation, culture, natural disasters, sport, certain broadband infrastructure, other infrastructure, social aid for transport to remote regions and aid for certain agriculture, forestry and fisheries issues. They concern only areas where the Commission has a solid case experience and the aid has a limited potential of distorting competition.
- **Procedural Regulation:** this reform will improve the handling of complaints leading to a prompt, more predictable and more transparent investigation of complaints. The Commission will get new tools for gathering information directly from market participants and for conducting sector inquiries.

**Telecoms.** The Commission has put forward a package of legislative proposals to move towards a single market in the area of

telecoms – described as the largest telecoms reform in the EU for 26 years.

The package, called "Connected Continent", is aimed at improving consumer protection, cutting red tape and facilitating investment. It would:

- Simplify rules for telecoms operators to invest across borders and rent access to networks
- Push roaming premiums out of the market, including banning incoming call charges as of 1 July 2014 and forcing operators to offer customers a "roam like at home" scheme or allow customers to opt for separate roaming providers with cheaper rates
- Put in place a ban on international call premiums within Europe
- Ensure EU-wide protection of net neutrality

The proposal would not create a European telecoms regulator, contrary to an idea promoted by the Commission's DG Competition. Instead, it would create a single EU authorisation for telecoms operators that all national regulators would have to accept.

Commission President Barroso presented the proposals during his annual State of the Union address on 11 September, and stressed that "the strength of Europe's industrial base depends on connectivity".

There is currently no telecoms company operating across the EU and the Commission is blaming the fragmented market for Europe's slow growth in terms of digital enterprise.

The proposals will now be passed to the Council and the Parliament for consideration and adoption. The Commission is hoping that the package will be fast-tracked and adopted by the current Parliament, whose mandate runs until spring next year. The



telecoms industry welcomes the proposals at large, but has been strongly opposing the consumer protection elements, in particular the wish to end roaming charges.

**Key Enabling Technologies.** The European Commission has published a [study](#) comparing European and non-European regional clusters in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), in particular the case of semiconductors. It analyses the main activities and measures required to create, expand and keep nanoelectronics clusters in Europe competitive. The European clusters analysed include Grenoble (FR), Silicon Saxony (Dresden, DE), Eindhoven-Leuven (NL-BE) and Silicon South West (UK).

The study finds that Asian clusters receive most public support, but the US remains the largest and most sophisticated market for technology products, where design and innovation are expected to remain. Europe is very strong on research, but it is noted that the “European model” of technology transfer is a top-down approach, where Governments tend to stimulate specific forms and strategies, whereas the US has a more bottom-up approach.

Europe and the US also differ in their clustering models, where European clusters are typically organised as a network system and US clusters are not centrally coordinated by a single cluster organisation.

The report’s recommendations include:

- Europe needs to develop an integrated European-level SBIR programme with strong coordination mechanisms and competitive budgets.
- Europe needs a set of urgent and effective policy measures to tackle the shortage of skilled labour for the semiconductor industry.

Large companies play a central role in the development of the European and global semiconductor industry, so Europe needs specific measures helping to keep large semiconductor companies in the region, for example favourable tax incentives and softer state aid rules.

**Tourism.** The European Commission is taking action to improve protection for tourists by proposing amendments to the 1990 EU Directive on Package Travel. The Directive guarantees protection of holiday makers when booking pre-arranged package holidays.

However with the transformation in recent years in how consumers choose to book their holiday, means the current EU Directive is no longer deemed sufficient. The new proposal aims to update legislation with requirements of the digital age. For consumers, the proposed changes include stricter controls on price surcharges, improved cancellation rights and better information on liability. It also hopes to facilitate for business by creating a level playing field for different operators and cutting red tape by abolishing requirements to reprint brochures. Business travel will also be excluded from the Directive, which is expected to save business many millions.

**Creative Industries.** An agreement has been reached by the Council and the Parliament on the text for the new Creative Europe programme 2014-2020. The Creative Europe programme will replace the current Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes.

A budget of €1,462,724,000 has been set for the programme which represents an increase of 9% compared to combined budgets of the previous programmes. The budget allocation for each strand of the programme is agreed to be at least 56% for





the MEDIA strand, 31% for the Cultural strand and 13% for the Cross-Sectoral Stand.

The cross-sectoral Strand will include the Guarantee Fund, the support for Creative Europe Desks which will replace MEDIA Desks and Cultural Contact points as from 2014 as well as the support for transnational policy cooperation. It is now foreseen that the process of the Creative Europe programme will be finalised and voted on in Parliament by October 2013, with the aim of releasing the first calls in January 2014.

**Unemployment.** The European Council of Ministers has proposed to extend the European Globalisation Fund (EGF) to include workers made redundant as a result of the economic crisis, whilst also proposing cuts to the fund's overall budget. The EGF, which was allocated €3.5bn over the period 2007-2013, currently provides support to workers laid off as a result of companies relocating abroad due to globalisation. The Council has proposed to further use this fund to help those affected by the crisis, but also seeks to reduce the fund's budget to €1bn for the next seven years, down from €3bn originally proposed by the Commission. Ministers are further considering the inclusion of unemployed young people from regions with high youth unemployment rates, meaning the fund could apply not only to those made redundant but also those who have never worked. Observers have commented that expanding the scope of the EGF while reducing its budget could put too much pressure on the fund.

It is important to note that all of the above figures remain conditional on final agreement on the European Union's long-term budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework. The third round of negotiations between the European Parliament, Member

State governments and the European Commission is scheduled for 17 September.

The EGF has come under criticism of late following a report by the European Court of Auditors that suggested the fund delivers only limited benefits over national support schemes and should be replaced by a more effective programme. During negotiations on its next budget several Ministers called for the fund to be scrapped entirely. The Commission however continues to defend the fund, arguing that its support is valuable to redundant workers in helping them into training or work.

**Internationalising Higher Education.** With a view towards increasing the international visibility and presence of European universities, and developing a strategic course of action to capitalise on Europe's reputation for top quality higher education, the Commission has published a new Communication on the internationalisation of European higher education. The document seeks to place European higher education in a global context, building on the 2011 Modernisation of Higher Education agenda, the 2012 Rethinking Education strategy, and the European Council's Conclusions of 11 May 2010 on the internationalisation of higher education.

Entitled "European higher education in the world", the Commission presents a number of strategies to advance the internationalisation of European universities. The Communication includes a strong focus on mobility of students and staff, the internationalisation of curricula with a strong focus on the usage of ICT, the optimisation of ranking tools such as the recently-developed 'U-Multirank', and the increased opportunities through the new 'Erasmus+' programme (originally called 'Erasmus for All') to enable cooperation between



European Higher Education institutions and third countries.

**Shadow Banking.** On 4 September the European Commission published a Communication providing an overview of current and future EU measures in the regulation of the non-bank credit intermediation system. The Communication suggests extending the scope of the application of prudential rules to banks in their operations with unregulated financial entities, and outlines a series of possible measures to improve the transparency of the shadow banking sector. It also states that a proposal for a Securities Law Regulation is planned for early 2014; however this project has already suffered large delays.

The Communication was accompanied by a proposal for a Regulation on Money Market Funds (MMFs), which are mutual funds that invest in short term debt instruments such as treasury bills. The funds are widely used by corporate treasurers and currently hold 38 percent of the short term debt issued by European banks.

A key element of the draft legislation is the requirement for constant net asset value (CNAV) MMFs to hold a capital buffer equal to three percent of all assets under management. The fact that these funds already have very low margins has led many industry figures to state that this requirement would effectively kill off CNAV funds. The draft must be approved by EU Member States and the European Parliament before it can become law, which is unlikely to happen before the May 2014 European elections. As it is a Regulation, once agreed the law will be directly applicable in Member States.

**Energy infrastructure.** The European Commission has published a guidance

document on streamlining environmental assessment procedures for energy infrastructure projects which are considered to be of 'Common European Interest', implementing priority corridors and areas identified in the new EU Regulation setting out a trans-European energy network. The guidance is targeted at national Governments who now have to implement the rules on streamlining environmental assessment procedures in these cases since the EU law formally entered into force in May. A first list of around 200 identified eligible Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) is expected to be published in September 2013. The EU's Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators gave its endorsement to the current draft list in an opinion published on 18 July.

**Water quality.** The European Commission has published new legislation which will require Member States to start monitoring levels of three pharmaceutical substances in water by September 2015. The Directive, which updates existing law on priority substances in water, also establishes a new 'watch list' of chemicals which will be monitored with a view to potentially including them under EU water legislation in the future. Updated environmental quality standards (EQSs) are given for seven substances covered under the initial Directive, including lead and nickel, which will apply from December 2015, and EQSs for twelve new priority substances, including pesticides cypermethrin and dicofol, will apply from 2018. The new Directive will come into force on 15 September.

**Habitats.** The European Commission has sent letters to the 'old 15' Member States asking for clarification whether they have fulfilled obligations to designate protected habitats for the Natura 2000 network. This concerns the upgrading of so called sites of



community importance (SCIs) into special areas of conservation (SACs).

SCIs are proposed by Member States and approved annually by the Commission, after which Member States have six years to upgrade them to SACs, thereby making them part of the Natura 2000 network. Around 90-95% of SCIs in the EU are older than six years, but the EU has no clear data on which have become SACs. It is clear that only Denmark is in compliance with the upgrading obligation.

**Climate change funding.** EU Governments formally endorsed on 18 July the political agreement brokered on 26 June with the European Parliament on the new LIFE+ funding instrument in the next budget period from 2014-2020. From its overall €3,456 million budget, €864 million is foreseen to support climate change actions. The figure is three times that available for climate projects under LIFE in the last budget period.

The funds will mostly be allocated through grants for projects. Part of the LIFE+ budget will go towards the establishment of a new Natural Capital Finance Facility, jointly managed between the European Commission and European Investment Bank (EIB) which will provide credit lines to commercial banks to allow them to make loans to projects in areas including climate change adaptation. This Facility should be in operation in early 2014 following final agreement by EU Governments and the European Parliament of the overall EU multiannual financial framework up to 2020.

**State of the Union.** On 11 September 2013, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso delivered his final State of the Union address before next year's European Parliament elections and the end of his term of office. Speaking in

Strasbourg, President Barroso urged MEPs and EU citizens to "rise above purely national issues and parochial interests and to have real progress for Europe."

Five years after the onset of the global financial crisis European recovery is in sight, Barroso stated, highlighting financial sector reforms and eurozone bailout programmes. He called for rapid agreement on the Single Resolution Mechanism for failing eurozone banks, and on the remaining proposals under the Single Market Act I and II. He also launched the Commission's "Connected Continent" legislative package of targeted changes to modernise the telecoms sector.

The Commission President took the opportunity to claim that lack of political commitment is the biggest threat to the EU's recovery. Political union, he said, "is the indispensable way forward to consolidate our progress and ensure the future." In a concession to the growing calls for less Europe, Barroso said that "not everything needs a solution at the European Union level." However, he insisted on the need for national leaders to believe in the benefits of the EU, and for greater cooperation between the European and national parliaments.

Although the speech itself did not reveal any great vision for the future of Europe, Barroso voiced the Commission's commitment to presenting its "outline for the shape of the future European Union" and "explicit ideas for Treaty change" before the European elections in May 2014.

In response to criticism from the Chair of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group Martin Callanan (UK, Conservative), Barroso said that the Conservative party was "increasingly looking like Ukip" and could lose votes in the European elections as a result.



# UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

<b>September</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>2013</b>
20	Political and Security Committee	1	Informal Meeting of Ministers for Sport
23	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	1	Informal Meeting of Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual Affairs
24	Political and Security Committee	4	Political and Security Committee
26-27	Competitiveness Council	7-10	European Parliament Plenary
27	Political and Security Committee	7-8	Justice and Home Affairs Council
30	General Affairs Council	8	Political and Security Committee
		10	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport)
		14	Environment Council
		15	Economic and Financial Affairs Council
		15	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council
		17-18	Agriculture and Fisheries Council
		18	Foreign Affairs Council – Trade
		21	Foreign Affairs Council
		22	General Affairs Council
		24-25	European Council Summit





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**European and External Relations Committee**

**15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 19 September 2013**

**Scottish Government's draft Budget 2014-15 - approach to scrutiny**

**Background**

1. This paper proposes an approach for the European and External Relations (EER) Committee's scrutiny of the Europe and External Affairs (EEA) portfolio of the Scottish Government's draft Budget 2014-15. The Finance Committee has requested that other committees report to it by 15 November. The Finance Committee has not asked committees to focus on any specific theme this year although the Finance Committee itself is focussing on the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF).

2. The Scottish Government's draft Budget for 2014-15 was published on 11 September 2013 and is available on the Scottish Government's website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/9971>

3. In May 2013, the EERC responded to the Finance Committee on the Budget Strategy Phase (BSP). The EERC identified specific areas on which it would welcome an update from the Scottish Government on the latter's progress in delivering its priorities as set out in the 2011 Spending review. The EERC will scrutinise the relevant parts of the ensuing Scottish Government's performance evaluation document alongside the Spending Review 2013.

4. The EERC has also been invited by the Rural Affairs and Climate Change and Environment Committee (see letter in Annexe) to include, in its report to the Finance Committee, an assessment of how spending in the EEA portfolio has taken account of climate change issues, and how this will help the Scottish Government meet the targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. **It is suggested that the EERC could consider how the international development budget supports action on climate change.**

**Proposed committee approach**

5. At the Committee's Business Planning Day, the EERC considered a detailed work programme which included one evidence session on the draft budget. Due to time constraints, it is therefore suggested that the EERC should focus on taking evidence from the Scottish Government. However, Members may find it useful to draw on the evidence heard in the EERC's recent inquiry into the Scottish Government's Country Plan for China and International framework.

6. The total of the draft Budget 2014-15 for the EEA portfolio is £15.5 million. The majority (£9 million) is allocated to the International Development Fund. **It is therefore proposed that the EERC invite the Minister for External Affairs and International Development to give evidence on 31 October on the draft Budget and the priorities that the EERC identified as part of the Budget Strategy Phase.** SPICe will provide a briefing, including level 4 figures, for this session. The EERC would then need to consider and agree a draft report for the Finance Committee on 14 November.

**Decision**

**7. The Committee is invited to agree to focus its budget scrutiny this year on an evidence session with the Minister for External Affairs and International Development.**

**Jenny Goldsmith  
Assistant Clerk  
September 2013**

**Annexe**



**RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
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25 June 2013

Dear Christina

**Mainstreaming climate change scrutiny of the Scottish Government's draft budget**

*Background*

During its scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft budget 2012-13 and Spending Review 2011, the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment (RACCE) Committee noted the inherent difficulties of one committee attempting to scrutinise actual spend on achieving the Scottish Government's climate change targets as set out in the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) ("the Act") due to policies crossing all subject committees' remits and Cabinet Secretaries' portfolios.

In its subsequent report to the Finance Committee, the RACCE Committee recommended that, in future, all committees should be required to consider climate change issues when scrutinising their own relevant Scottish Government portfolios, and to report to the Finance Committee accordingly. This recommendation was endorsed by the Finance Committee in its report to Parliament. This mainstreaming was carried out for the first time last year in committees' consideration of the draft budget for 2013-14.

*Committee scrutiny of RPP2*

Earlier this year, four committees of the Parliament: RACCE; Economy, Energy and Tourism; Infrastructure and Capital Investment; and Local Government and Regeneration, scrutinised the Scottish Government's Draft Second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2) which sets out how the Government plans to meet its emissions reduction targets. Each committee published its own report to Parliament before a joint-committee debate, on a motion agreed by all four

committees, took place in the chamber. The Minister has since indicated that the final RPP2 will be published before the summer recess.

*Climate change targets*

The emissions reductions targets set out in the 2009 Act were missed in 2010 and, as recently announced, also in 2011. The Scottish Government is required to lay a report in Parliament on the missed target in 2011, outlining further proposals and policies for making up the shortfall in future years. This report will also be published before the summer recess.

*Climate change budget mainstreaming in 2013*

On April 17th 2013, the RACCE Committee agreed to repeat the mainstreaming process for the forthcoming draft budget 2014-15 and Spending Review 2013. In agreeing this, the Committee agreed to set out the context of scrutinising climate change issues within the budget and to suggest questions that committees may wish to include in any calls for written views that they may issue. This information can be found in the **Annexe**, along with information on the duty on all public bodies to contribute and report on the delivery of the climate change targets set out in the Act.

The Committee also agreed that the Clerks to the Committee, SPICe, and any adviser the RACCE Committee may appoint, will provide additional support to committees.

**Therefore, during your budget scrutiny later this year, we request that all committees include in their reports to the Finance Committee, an assessment of how spending in the particular portfolio has taken account of climate change issues, and will help the Scottish Government meet the targets set out in the 2009 Act. The committees which considered the draft RPP2 (Economy, Energy and Tourism, Infrastructure and Capital Investment, and Local Government and Regeneration) may wish to follow-up relevant issues as part of this process.**

**The RACCE Committee would be grateful if all committees could send the Clerks to the Committee a copy of the relevant texts from your reports, at the same time as you report to the Finance Committee.**

I hope that this is clear, but should you have any questions, please contact the Clerks to the RACCE Committee.

Yours sincerely



Rob Gibson MSP, Convener

**Annexe****Context**

At a generic level committees could consider exploring issues around delivery of Scotland's climate targets/implementation of the public bodies<sup>1</sup> climate duties e.g.—

- how the draft budget delivers proposals and policies that relate to their portfolio as set out in the RPP as necessary to meet Scotland's annual emission targets;
- how the draft budget supports measures aimed at making up the shortfall in emission reductions given Scotland's missed 2010 and 2011 emission targets; and
- how funding for those public bodies covered by their portfolio will help integrate action to tackle climate change in their business and service delivery functions and fulfil the duty under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act to contribute to Scotland's emission reduction targets.

**Subject specific questions**

The following is an area you may wish to explore specific to your committee—

- how does the international development budget support action on climate change.

**SPICe support on climate change mainstreaming**

SPICe researchers can offer the following support to committees—

- suggestions of lines of questioning/areas that the committee may wish to explore;
- support in identifying specific proposals and policies as set out in RPP2 that subject committees may wish to explore in the context of spending decisions;

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<sup>1</sup> Part 4 of the Act places duties on public bodies relating to climate change. The duties on the face of the Act (section 44) require that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.

The duties came into force on 1 January 2011 and apply to all public bodies. The Act also allows Ministers, by Order, to impose other climate change duties, to require reports on compliance with climate change duties, and to designate one or more bodies or persons to monitor compliance and to carry out investigations. The Scottish Government has also entered into Single Outcome Agreements with each local authority and community planning partners, which include measures to tackle climate change at the local level. The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has previously written to all senior accountable officers of public bodies in Scotland highlighting the advisory guidance on the production of Sustainability Reports alongside Annual Reports and Accounts.

- background briefings to support climate change scrutiny of specific aspects of the budget; and
- help with identifying appropriate witnesses.

**EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday, 19 September 2013**

**Appointment of an adviser for the Committee's inquiry into the aspects of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union**

**Background**

1. At its business planning day, the Committee indicated that it would like to appoint an adviser for its initial inquiry into the aspects of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union.

2. Under rule 12.7.1 of Standing Orders, the Committee requires the Parliamentary Bureau's approval to appoint an adviser. An adviser may be appointed up to a maximum of 15 days on the standard terms and conditions. Detailed consideration of the appointment, along with the selection from a range of candidates, will take place closer to the time. However, Members are invited to forward any suggestions for an adviser to the committee clerks.

3. A detailed Specification/Job description is attached in annexe. The adviser would typically assist the Committee with the following tasks—

- Provide oral and written briefing and advice to the Committee on the parts of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union.
- Provide specialist expertise to clarify any ad hoc inquiries from the Convener and other Committee members during the course of the inquiry.
- Advise on witnesses/evidence-taking.
- Analyse evidence gathered.
- Assist (in liaison with the Clerk) in drafting the European and External Relations Committee inquiry report.

**Decision**

**4. The Committee is invited to—**

- **Agree formally that it would like to appoint an adviser and seek the necessary approval of the Parliamentary Bureau;**
- **Agree the specification/job description for an adviser attached in annexe.**

**Katy Orr  
Clerk to the Committee**



## Specification/Job description

1) The adviser will have the following main functions—

a) Work relating to evidence-taking

- Advise the Committee on the implications of Scotland becoming independent in terms of its membership of the European Union.
- Advise the Committee on legal issues relating to the membership of an independent Scotland in the European Union.
- Advise the Committee on key themes to explore with witnesses on the aspects of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union.
- Advise the Committee on the role of key actors within the European Union.

b) Ongoing support

- Provide specialist expertise to clarify any ad hoc enquiries from the Convener and other Committee members during the course of the Committee's inquiry.
- Advise on witnesses/evidence-taking.
- Prepare briefing on potential lines of questioning for witnesses.
- Provide oral briefing to the Committee in advance of evidence sessions and on issues emerging from both the written and oral evidence.
- Analyse written and oral evidence as required.
- Provide support and advice to the clerks and SPICe as required.

c) Final output

- Assist (in liaison with the Clerk) in drafting the European and External Relation Committee's inquiry report.
- Provide advice and guidance to the Convener and clerk on any associated news releases or media briefings based on the Committee's agreed report.

## *Skills and abilities*

2) The individual should have the following skills and abilities—

- proven analytical and interpretative skills
- ability to deal with evidence from a wide range of sources
- good written and oral communication skills and the ability to present information in a clear and accessible style
- ability to deal accurately with follow-up queries and offer clarification and explanation is essential
- demonstrable availability of time to undertake the work
- ability to maintain absolute confidentiality about the matters under consideration
- ability to provide balanced and neutral advice
- ability to work to tight deadlines

## *Experience*

3) The key requirements are that the adviser must—

- have expert knowledge of the European Union institutions and decision-making process and the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

- have demonstrable credibility in significant elements of the subject area. It is preferable that, if an academic, he or she should be recently published in the field.

#### *Time Commitment*

- 4) It is envisaged that the adviser will spend the equivalent of 15 days supporting the Committee. The table below gives an indicative division of the time:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Days</b>
Preparation	1.5
Initial meeting of the expert with Convener/clerks	0.5
Attendance at meetings	5
Preparation of questions to witnesses	2
Analysis of evidence and development of findings	2
Ad hoc support	1
Preparation of Final Report	3